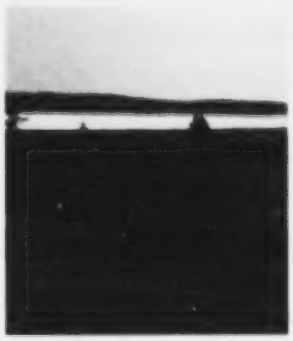
MELANSON SETTLEMENT

NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
OF CANADA

Management Plan



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OF CANADA

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Foreword

Canada's national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas represent the soul of Canada. They are a central part of who we are and what we are. They are places of magic and wonder and heritage. Each tells its own story. Together, they connect Canadians to our roots, to our future and to each other.

What we cherish as part of our national identity, we also recognize as part of our national responsibility. All Canadians share the obligation to preserve and protect Canada's unique cultural and natural heritage. Together, we hold our national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas in trust for the benefit of this and future generations. To achieve this, practical action grounded in long-term thinking is needed.

These principles form the foundation of the new management plan for Melanson Settlement National Historic Site of Canada. May I offer my deep appreciation to the vast range of thoughtful Canadians who helped forge this plan. I am especially grateful to our very dedicated team from Parks Canada and to all those local organizations and individuals who have demonstrated such good will, hard work, spirit of co-operation and extraordinary sense of stewardship.

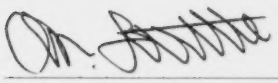
In that same spirit of partnership and responsibility, I am pleased to approve the Melanson Settlement National Historic Site of Canada Management Plan.

David Anderson

David Anderson
Minister of the Environment

Recommendations

Recommended by:



Alan Latourelle
Chief Executive Officer
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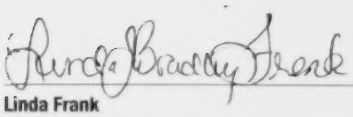

Linda Frank
Field Unit Superintendent
Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit, Parks Canada

Executive Summary

Soon after its rediscovery in 1984, Melanson Settlement National Historic Site of Canada (NHSC) was recognized as a rich archaeological site providing great insight into the daily life of Acadian settlers in the Port-Royal region prior to the Deportation in 1755. The *in situ* cultural resources of the Site reflect the family communities in which the Acadians settled along the *rivière Dauphin* (now Annapolis River) and undertook a form of agriculture unique in North America. The known archaeological features at the Site can be linked through the rich historic record of maps and letters to individual households, making this Acadian family settlement a place unparalleled elsewhere in former *Acadie*.

Melanson Settlement NHSC is administered by Parks Canada as part of a system of national historic sites across Canada. This system is referred to as the Parks Canada Family of National Historic Sites with each member presenting an important part of Canada's history to Canadians. Parks Canada has the potential, through Melanson Settlement NHSC and other national historic sites across Canada, to help connect Canadians through a greater understanding of their heritage.

The management plan has elaborated a vision for Melanson Settlement NHSC: the sense of place and natural beauty of the Site will be maintained and the surrounding landscape and views so important to the Site should be protected to permit all Canadians an opportunity to experience the sense of place of the Site. The sense of place provides an understanding of why Charles Melanson and Marie Dugas selected the site on the upland terrace overlooking the *marais de Saint-Charles* (Queen Anne Marsh) and the *rivière Dauphin* (Annapolis River) as the location of their family settlement. Visitors will have an understanding and appreciation of the Site, assisted by thorough research and an appropriate heritage presentation program.

The management plan sets out strategic direction for the future of Melanson Settlement NHSC, with a goal of ensuring commemorative integrity and applying cultural resource management principles and practices at this rich archaeological site. Broad management direction as well as specific actions are proposed for the protection of *in situ* cultural resources, the archaeological collection and associated records, for the implementation of a heritage presentation program on- and off-site, and for a first phase of site development. The management plan recognizes Melanson Settlement NHSC as part of a broader geographic context, an integral part of the landscape shaped by a history of land use and valued by the local community.

However, the management plan also recognizes the fiscal environment in which these proposals are being brought forward. The management plan recommends a strategic direction and serves as a guide to action to be followed by Parks Canada, as financial resources permit. Site development and the elaboration of a heritage presentation program, as well as putting in place other infrastructure and safety measures, and readying the Site for visitors will occur only when financial resources are available. Priority actions that will occur even in the absence of further site development have been identified.

The environmental assessment of the management plan indicates that there are no significant impacts or cumulative effects from the implementation of the proposals and concept identified in the plan. Important cultural and environmental benefits will be realized through the implementation of the plan.

Highlights of the management direction:

Heritage Protection

- Manage vegetation to protect key views from the Site of the surrounding landscape and protect *in situ* cultural resources
- Work toward protection of *in situ* cultural resources from looting activities and other human disturbance by using various protection strategies, such as strategic site design, public education, the application of appropriate legislation, monitoring and neighbourhood watch
- Unveil a Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque at the Site
- Pursue the transfer of ownership of the artifact collection and associated records of Melanson Settlement NHSC from the Province of Nova Scotia to Parks Canada

Heritage Presentation

- Develop a detailed interpretive plan for an on-site heritage presentation program, in consultation with local heritage organizations and the Acadian and Mi'kmaw communities
- Given available financial resources, provide opportunities for heritage presentation at the Site that permit access to known cultural resources while ensuring their protection and that incorporate views of and from the Site; non-personal media at an interpretive node will anchor on-site heritage presentation efforts
- Given available financial resources, develop opportunities for the non-visiting public to learn about Melanson Settlement NHSC, through the use of new and traditional media

Research in Support of Heritage Protection, Heritage Presentation, Visitor Services and Environmental Stewardship

- Prepare a research plan to identify research priorities for the Site, and continue to promote and facilitate appropriate research to improve understanding of the Site
- Complete comprehensive archaeological and historical reports for Melanson Settlement NHSC based on existing research

Visitor Services

- Given available financial resources, provide visitor services that will be compatible with the Site's cultural values and sense of place and that will be accessible to visitors with disabilities
- Given available financial resources, consider the development of a directed trail system that would provide opportunities for visitors to experience some of the archaeological features
- Undertake any site development with the utmost caution, conducting environmental and cultural resource assessments and taking mitigation measures as required

External Relations

- Once the Site is visitor-ready, use existing mechanisms for external relations and marketing of national historic sites in Mainland Nova Scotia to promote and market Melanson Settlement NHSC, while developing realistic expectations about a visit

Working with Others

- Continue to develop and improve relationships with various organizations and groups, such as the Acadian community, the Mi'kmaw community, local heritage organizations, local landowners and the Province of Nova Scotia to work to improve heritage protection, heritage presentation and outreach and promotion of Melanson Settlement NHSC
- Cooperate with other groups and organizations to promote the protection and management of the Site and its surrounding geographical context

- Cooperate with neighbours and the Province of Nova Scotia to identify, protect and monitor cultural resources related to the Melanson Settlement that may be discovered beyond the administered property

Environmental Stewardship

- Develop a vegetation management plan to guide Site managers in the appropriate timing and means to maintain the desired landscape character in an environmentally sound fashion
- Use environmentally sound practices in the operation and management of the Site

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1.0 Introduction

Archaeological investigations in 1984-86 confirmed the richness of Melanson Settlement as an example of a pre-Deportation Acadian family settlement. *Parks Canada*

1.1 UNEARTHING A FORGOTTEN ACADIAN SETTLEMENT

In November 1986, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended the commemoration of the Melanson Settlement as a national historic site. The Board recognized the Site's national historic significance for its *in situ* cultural resources[1], which reflect the family communities in which the Acadians settled along the *rivière Dauphin* (now Annapolis River) and undertook a form of agriculture unique in North America. Official designation of Melanson Settlement as a national historic site followed ministerial approval of Minutes of the November 1986 Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada meeting, in which the Board's recommendation was made.

When the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada made its recommendation, the Site had only recently been rediscovered. The settlement was identified in 1984 during a survey of prospective Acadian archaeological sites led by staff of the Nova

[1] An *in situ* cultural resource is a cultural resource in its original location; the term is often used to describe undisturbed archaeological features. A cultural resource is "a human work or a place that gives evidence of human activity or has spiritual or cultural meaning, and which has been determined to have historic value" (Parks Canada's *Guiding Principles and Operational Policies*, 1994). The term applies to cultural landscapes and landscape features, archaeological sites, structures, engineering works, artifacts and associated records. Cultural resources may occur in complexes or assemblages and may have both natural and fabricated features. Cultural resources are distinguished from other resources by virtue of their assigned historic value that derives from an association with an aspect or aspects of human history. They have physical and associative values that give them historic value.

Scotia Museum (formerly part of the Nova Scotia Department of Education, currently part of the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism and Culture). Parks Canada undertook a more detailed archaeological examination between 1984 and 1986. Archaeological features associated with the settlement were found in three contiguous parcels of privately owned land.

At that time, the fate of the land was in question because one landowner wished to develop his parcel. In 1998, a federal-provincial agreement was reached to ensure protection of the property: the Province would acquire the property and transfer the land to the federal government in exchange for federal property in Halifax Harbour. The land transfer was finalized in 2003. Melanson Settlement National Historic Site of Canada (NHSC) falls within the administration of the Parks Canada Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit. The Site is as yet undeveloped.

This first management plan for Melanson Settlement NHSC provides long-term direction to managers. A Commemorative Integrity Statement for Melanson Settlement NHSC was prepared and approved in 2000; that document guided the development of management direction for the Site. In the event that financial resources become available during the life of this plan, the management plan will guide an appropriate level of site development. In the event that financial resources are not available, the management plan will provide strategic direction to guide the protection and presentation activities necessary to ensure the commemorative integrity of this national historic site. As well, the management plan helps managers respond to operational needs and cooperative opportunities. Subsequent detailed planning, implementation and management will in turn be guided broadly by this management plan.

1.2 GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

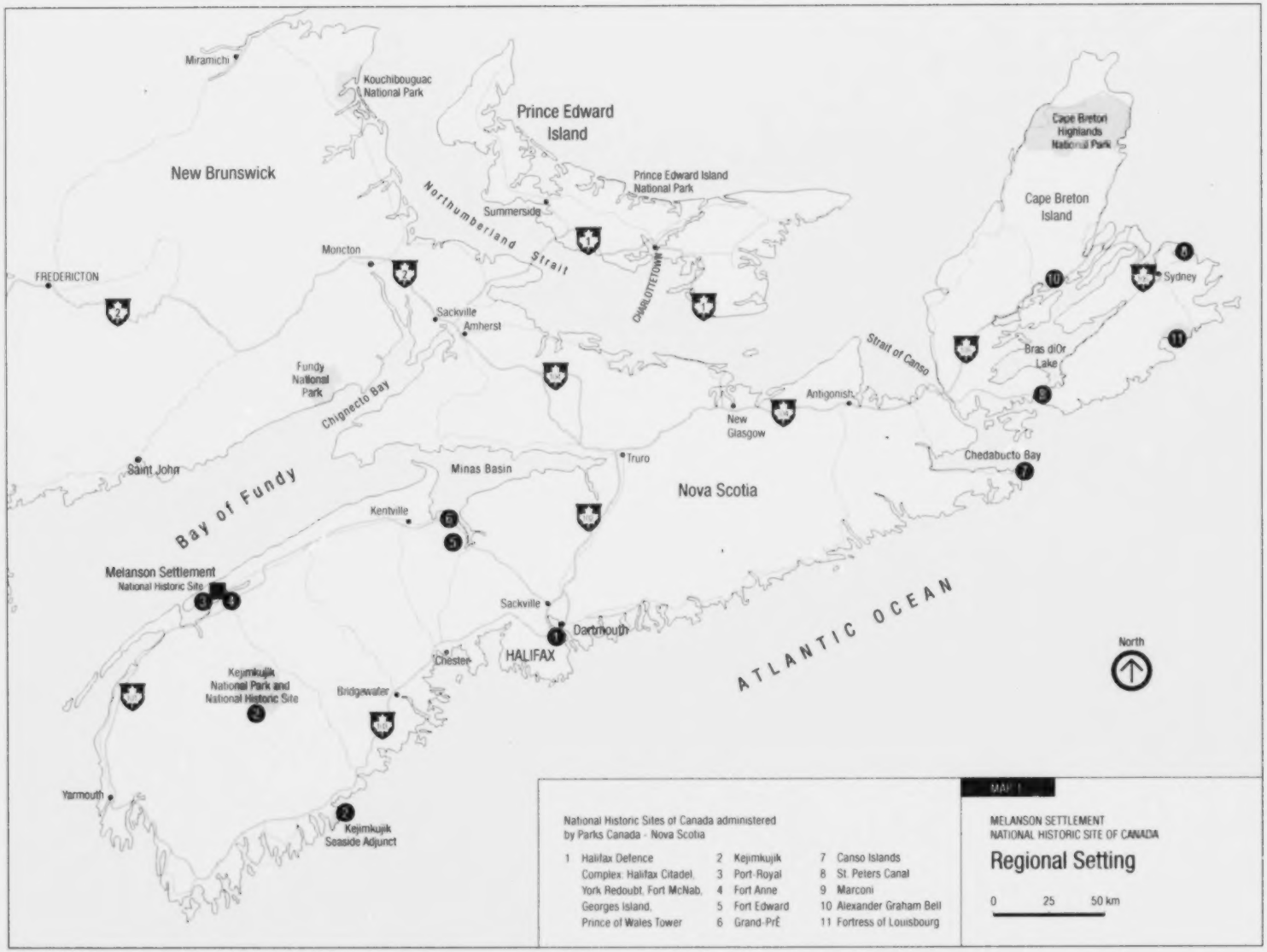
Melanson Settlement NHSC is located in Annapolis County, Nova Scotia, on the north shore of the Annapolis River. The Site is located about 1 km from Port-Royal NHSC and about 6 km from the Town of Annapolis Royal along Victoria Beach Road, the road forming the Site's northern boundary (see Map 2: Local Context). Melanson Settlement NHSC covers an area of 27 hectares (approximately 68 acres); the Site was pieced together from three contiguous privately-owned parcels in which the cultural resources were detected. The odd shape of the administered property[2] reflects the history of multiple subdivisions of the three parcels by various landowners over the years[3] (see Map 4: Site Map).

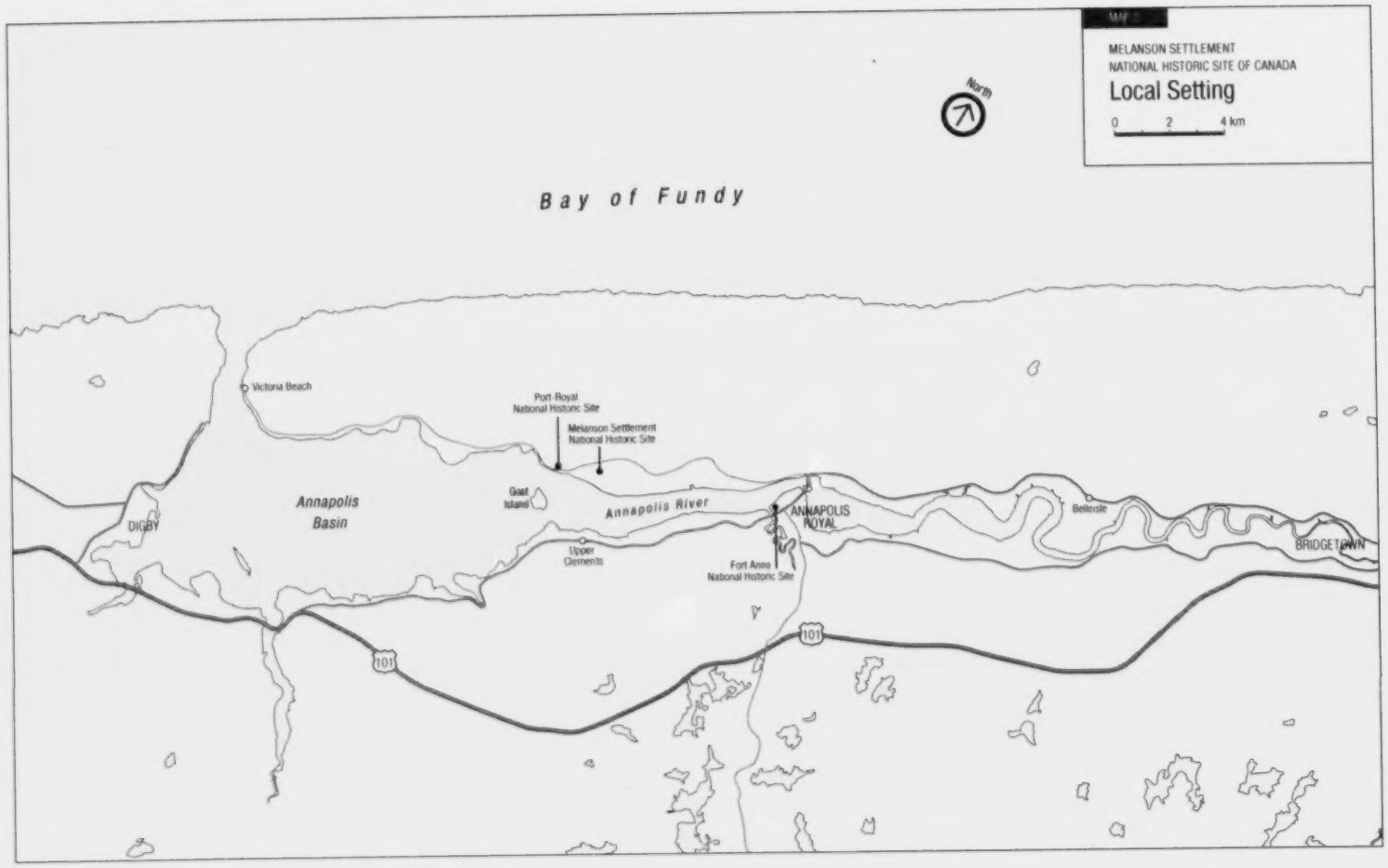
The physical geography and climate of Melanson Settlement NHSC are similar to other parts of western Annapolis Valley; the sheltering North and South Mountains help create a climate favourable for agriculture. North Mountain forms the backdrop of the upland terrace of the Site, where most of the Melanson Settlement homesteads were situated and where the known archaeological features are concentrated. Much of the Site is successional agricultural land or oldfield, covered in herbaceous species that are succeeding to alders and hawthorn. Portions of the Site are wooded. The Site elevations range from an average of 17m above sea level at the upland area near the paved road, and 14m above sea level in the upland terrace where most of the identified cultural resources are located, to lows on the river bank of sea level at the high tide mark. A small portion of modern dyke in the administered property is built to a height of about 6m above sea level.

A surficial survey of the administered property of the national historic site conducted in 1984 revealed eighteen archaeological features. Several of these

[2] The administered property is the property administered by a custodian or authority which includes part or all of the designated place of a national historic site (Parks Canada *Guide to the Preparation of Commemorative Integrity Statements*, 2002).

[3] See Moody (2001), a report describing post-Acadian land use of this area.


Miramichi
Kouchibouguac National Park
Prince Edward Island
New Brunswick
Prince Edward Island National Park
Northumberland Strait
Summerside
Cape Breton Highlands National Park
Cape Breton Island
Moncton
FREDERICTON
CHARLOTTETOWN
Sydney
Sackville
Amherst
Bras d'Or Lake
Strait of Canso
Fundy National Park
Chignecto Bay
Antigonish
New Glasgow
Saint John
Minas Basin
Truro
Chedabucto Bay
Nova Scotia
Bay of Fundy
Kentville
Melanson Settlement National Historic Site
Sackville
Dartmouth
HALIFAX
Chester
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Kejimkujik National Park and National Historic Site
Bridgewater
North
Yarmouth
Kejimkujik Seaside Adjunct
National Historic Sites of Canada administered by Parks Canada - Nova Scotia
1 Halifax Defence Complex: Halifax Citadel, York Redoubt, Fort McNab, Georges Island, Prince of Wales Tower
2 Kejimkujik
3 Port-Royal
4 Fort Anne
5 Fort Edward
6 Grand-Pré
7 Canso Islands
8 St. Peters Canal
9 Marconi
10 Alexander Graham Bell
11 Fortress of Louisbourg
MAP 1
MELANSON SETTLEMENT
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA
Regional Setting
0 25 50 km


MAP
MELANSON SETTLEMENT
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA
Local Setting
0 2 4 km
North
Bay of Fundy
Victoria Beach
Port-Royal
National Historic Site
Melanson Settlement
National Historic Site
Annapolis
Basin
Goat
Island
Annapolis River
ANNAPOLIS
ROYAL
Bellisle
DIGBY
Upper
Clements
Fort Anne
National Historic Site
BRIDGETOWN
101
101

archaeological features correspond to structures and households marked on military maps from the historic record of the settlement[4], allowing the features to be associated with specific individual Acadian households. For this reason, Melanson Settlement NHSC is unique and can provide a great deal of insight into the family communities in which Acadians settled.

Rock boundary lines still distinguish the three narrow, parallel parcels from which the consolidated administered property was formed. These boundary lines reflect the pattern of New England Planter[5] land grants, which were long, parallel properties stretching from the upland near the Annapolis River marshes across North Mountain to the Bay of Fundy. The Planters who occupied the Melanson Settlement property did not disturb the remains of the settlement following the forcible evacuation of its Acadian inhabitants in 1755.

Melanson Settlement NHSC has expansive views of the Annapolis River and Goat Island at the mouth of the Annapolis River, as well as of the Queen Anne Marsh (formerly *marais de Saint-Charles*). Collectively, the mix of dykeland, forest, river edge and uplands areas forms the broader geographic context of Melanson Settlement NHSC, and is referred to either as the geographic context or as the remnant Acadian cultural landscape.

The vast dykeland of the Queen Anne Marsh, covering an area of approximately 165 hectares (412 acres), dominates the geographic context. The dykeland was created by members of the Melanson Settlement in cooperation with their farming neighbours, members of the Guilbeau Settlement. After the Acadians, the New England Planters continued to cultivate the dykelands using techniques that did not necessitate levelling fields and consolidating drainage patterns. The Queen Anne Marsh continues to be farmed. The Queen Anne Marsh Body[6] is an organization of dykeland landowners who continue to maintain the dykes and cultivate and care for the dykelands that constitute the Queen Anne Marsh with the help of the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Queen Anne Marsh Body members wish to see the dykeland heritage preserved. Not all nearby landowners are members of the Queen Anne Marsh Body, and not all dykeland property owners are resident farmers of the land. Some of the Queen Anne Marsh is the property of absent landowners, and the Queen Anne Marsh Body must contend with the challenges of unmanaged properties that are changing the Marsh and the character of the broader landscape.

View of Goat Island and the Annapolis River from Melanson Settlement NHSC. *S. Quon 2001*

[4] The historic record includes official and private correspondence, parish records and maps such as the 1708 map prepared by Pierre-Paul Delabat. (see Map 3: Melanson Settlement 1708)

[5] The New England Planters were settlers from the northeastern seaboard of present-day United States of America who occupied the former Acadian lands after 1755, following the deportation of Acadians, at the invitation of then Governor of Nova Scotia, Charles Lawrence.

[6] A "marsh body" is an incorporation of landowners recognized under the Nova Scotia *Agricultural Marshland Conservation Act*. A marsh body can be formed only when two-thirds of the landowners collectively holding more than two-thirds of the land area of marsh agree to its formation. The marsh body can develop by-laws that determine the appropriate developments and activities on the marsh. The marsh body can levy funds from its members, to be put toward the repair and maintenance of the dykes.

1.3 HISTORY OF THE AREA

First Nations in the Region

Melanson Settlement NHSC is part of an area that was known and used by Mi'kmaq for thousands of years. First Nations' presence has been evidenced by a number of archaeological sites found along the shore of the Annapolis River. Some Aboriginal artifacts were unearthed at the Melanson Settlement during the archaeological excavation; these are characteristic of the period immediately prior to, or shortly after, contact between Mi'kmaq and Europeans (i.e., 16th century). As only a small portion of the Site has been investigated by archaeologists, it is possible that additional evidence of Aboriginal use of the Melanson Settlement property may be found.

An Acadian Family Community

The Melanson Settlement was an Acadian family settlement in the Port-Royal area. Like the other Acadian settlements scattered along the *rivière Dauphin* (Annapolis River), the Melanson Settlement was an agricultural community where family members and neighbours, who often were related, worked co-operatively in the distinctive dykeland agriculture that was unique in colonial North America.

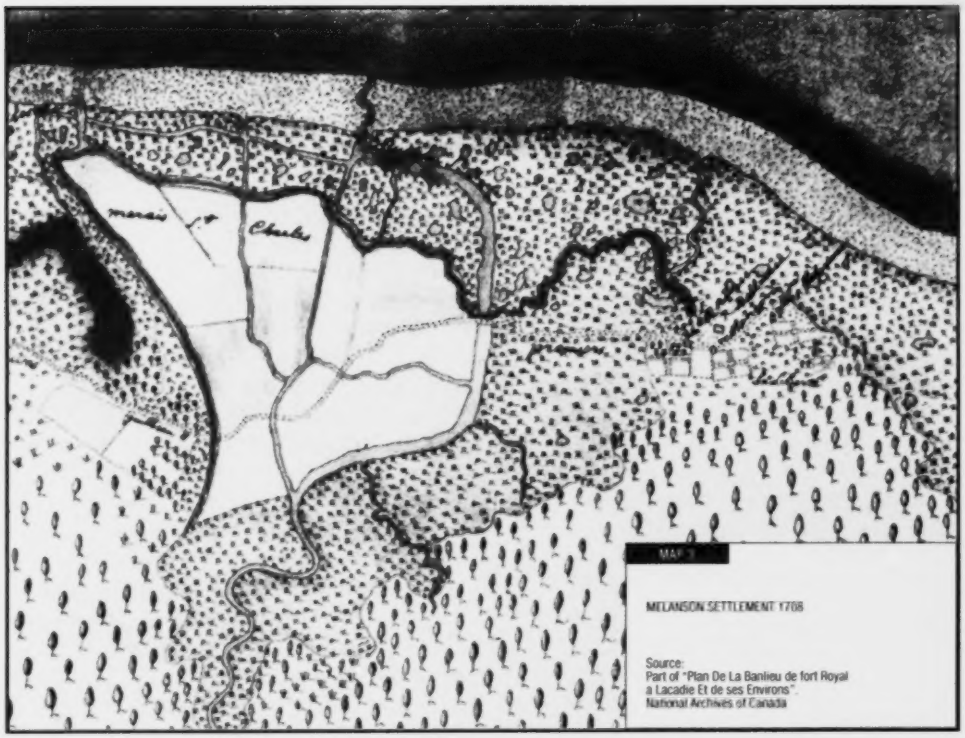
The houses, farm buildings and other architectural features of the settlement, as well as its orchards and upland gardens were situated on an upland terrace overlooking the river, while its dykes and extensive fields were located on the adjacent Queen Anne Marsh, known in French as the *marais de Saint-Charles*. Because it was on the approach to the fort at Port-Royal/Annapolis Royal, engineers recorded the Melanson Settlement on several 18th-century maps, providing an unusually detailed record for a pre-Deportation Acadian settlement (see Map 3: Melanson Settlement 1708).

Acadians picking apples at Port-Royal c. 1640.
Artist: Terry MacDonald.

Early Years

The settlement was founded by Charles Melanson *dit* La Ramée and Marie Dugas after their marriage in about 1664. Charles Melanson had come to Acadia from England in 1657 during a period of English rule and had strong ties with Boston. Marie Dugas had been born in Port-Royal. The couple built their home on the edge of the upland adjacent to the *marais de Saint-Charles*. Working with the Guilbeaus, their neighbours on the east side of the marsh, the Melansons built the first dyke across the extensive marsh. Before Charles Melanson's death in about 1700, the couple had fourteen children. As they grew to adulthood and married, eight of the children chose to live in the family settlement, although not all at the same time.

In 1701, there were five houses in the settlement. A 1708 map identified four houses as those of the widow Melanson, one of her sons (probably Charles Melanson *fils*), a widowed daughter (Madeleine Melanson, widow of Jean Belliveau) and Alexandre Robichaud, husband of another daughter, Anne Melanson. The fifth belonged to Jean Roy, a fisherman from Saint Malo, France and former employee of the La Tours' fishery at Cap Sable. Roy apparently had relocated to the settlement with Anne Melanson after the death of her first husband, Jacques de Saint-Étienne de La Tour. Roy is believed to have been of African descent and was married to Marie Aubois, an Aboriginal woman. Another Melanson son had built a home in the settlement by 1710, the year Port-Royal was captured by the British.



MAP 3

MELANSON SETTLEMENT 1708

Source:
Part of "Plan De La Banlieu de fort Royal a Lacadie Et de ses Environs".
National Archives of Canada

British Period

Under the British, the Melanson Settlement was part of a wider area sometimes known as Oak Point. The name was derived from the name of the upland point near which the Guilbeaus lived, *Pointe aux Chesnes*, a name that was subsequently anglicized to Oak Point and applied to a larger area. However, a 1753 map still described Melanson Settlement as the "Melansons Village." Alexandre Robichaud, and later Jean Melanson, served as a deputy, representing the area in its dealings with the British governor and council at Annapolis Royal. The settlement on the upland grew slightly but seems never to have exceeded ten to twelve households.

Dykeland agriculture continued at the site. A second dyke had been constructed by 1708. By 1725, the reclaimed marshland extended all the way to the river on both sides of the Melanson Settlement. Significant portions of the 17th- and 18th-century Acadian dykes still survive.

By 1755, four generations of Melansons had lived in the Melanson Settlement. Its residents were among the 1 666 Acadians deported from the Annapolis Royal area in December of that year. All of the buildings of the settlement were probably destroyed at that time.

Post-Acadian History

In 1759, the north shore of the Annapolis Basin and the Annapolis River, including the lands of the Melanson Settlement, became part of Granville Township and was granted to New England Planters. The Planter and later landowners built their homes along a road, away from the upland terrace that held the remains of the former Acadian buildings. During the next 250 years, the Acadian foundations remained relatively undisturbed. The Planters and their successors continued the cultivation of the dykelands, using techniques that did not necessitate levelling fields and consolidating drainage patterns. The vestiges of the Acadian dykes and the associated field patterns of the former

Melanson Settlement are still evident today, preserved by farming practices based on the Acadian style of dykeland agriculture.

1.4 ONE OF THE FAMILY OF NATIONAL HISTORIC SITES

Melanson Settlement NHSC is part of a broad-ranging program of commemoration, which includes national historic sites and persons and events of national historic significance. There is a family of over 890 national historic sites nation-wide, of which Parks Canada administers 149 and has contributed to many more through cost-sharing agreements. The stewardship of national historic sites is shared, as these places are variously owned by federal, provincial and municipal governments, by businesses and by private citizens.

Each national historic site has had a nationally significant impact on Canadian history or illustrates a nationally important aspect of the history of Canada. Collectively, national historic sites exemplify thousands of years of human history and a rich variety of themes, spanning political, economic, intellectual, cultural and social life. National historic sites capture the spirit and house the physical remains of our shared past, serving as powerful symbols of our identity, an inheritance for all Canadians recognized under an act of Parliament.

1.5 LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY BASIS FOR MANAGEMENT PLANNING

National historic sites of Canada must adhere to federal legislation. Planning, management and operation of the sites are guided by Parks Canada policy. Management plans for national historic sites administered by Parks Canada are mandated under law as a means to ensure a site's commemorative integrity, including the application of cultural resource management principles and practices while guiding the provision of appropriate opportunities for appreciation and enjoyment of the site. This management plan presents the direction that will guide Parks Canada and its partners in the protection, presentation and management of Melanson Settlement NHSC in order to ensure the commemorative integrity of this national historic site. Public input in the management planning process is an integral part of the planning process. The legislative and policy context described below is common to all national historic sites administered by Parks Canada and is the context within which this management direction was developed.

Historic Sites and Monuments Act

The *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* provides the responsible Minister with the legislated mandate to designate "historic places," or to bring them into being. Such designations are usually made on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, a statutory advisory body composed of members representing all provinces and territories. It was under the authority of this *Act* that the Melanson Settlement was designated a national historic site, on the recommendation of the Board in 1986.

Parks Canada Agency Act

Under the *Parks Canada Agency Act* (1998), Parks Canada has a mandated responsibility for ensuring the commemorative integrity of national historic sites. This *Act* also requires that every national historic site administered by the Agency prepare a management plan to be tabled in Parliament, and that the plan be reviewed every five years.

The management plan is prepared with guidance from the *Parks Canada Guide to Management Planning* (2000), and in accordance with Parks Canada's current policy, described in *Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies* (1994). Two sets of policy pertain to the Melanson Settlement NHSC management plan: National Historic Sites Policy and Cultural Resource Management Policy.

National Historic Sites Policy

Canada's system of national historic sites preserves and presents tangible and symbolic aspects of our nation's cultural heritage. The National Historic Sites Policy outlines the objectives of a national program of historical commemoration, provides guidelines for the evaluation of the program including the

concept of commemorative integrity, and outlines the roles and responsibilities for the recognition, designation and commemoration of sites, persons and events of national significance.

The Government of Canada's objectives for national historic sites are:

- to foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada's past through a national program of historical commemoration
- to ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites administered by Parks Canada by protecting and presenting them for the benefit, education and enjoyment of this and future generations, in a manner that respects the significant and irreplaceable legacy represented by these places and their associated cultural resources
- to encourage and support the protection and presentation by others of places of national historic significance that are not administered by Parks Canada.

Cultural Resource Management Policy

To ensure that national historic sites and their associated cultural resources and values are protected and presented appropriately, Parks Canada has developed a Cultural Resource Management Policy. Management of cultural resources should adhere to five guiding principles: value, public benefit, understanding, respect and integrity. The practice of cultural resource management requires that cultural resources be identified and evaluated, and that their historic value be duly considered in all actions that might affect them. The Cultural Resource Management Policy also provides guidance on activities ranging from corporate direction, planning, research, conservation and presentation.

Cultural resource management is an integrated and holistic approach to the management of cultural resources. It applies to all activities that have an impact on cultural resources whether they relate to protection, maintenance, appreciation or use. The five principles of cultural resource management are not mutually exclusive; rather they work most effectively when considered together. Cultural resource management is integral to the successful management of a national historic site, and should be practised by Parks Canada staff and partners in all cooperative or shared management activities.

2.0 Commemorative Integrity

2.1 PARKS CANADA'S COMMITMENT TO COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY

Parks Canada has a responsibility at Melanson Settlement NHSC to ensure the Site's commemorative integrity. Commemorative integrity describes the health or wholeness of a national historic site. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when:

- the resources directly related to the reasons for the site's designation as a national historic site are not impaired or under threat;
- the reasons for the site's national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public; and
- the site's heritage values (including those not related to national significance) are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

2.2 COMMEMORATIVE INTEGRITY STATEMENT: SPECIFYING VALUES OF THE SITE

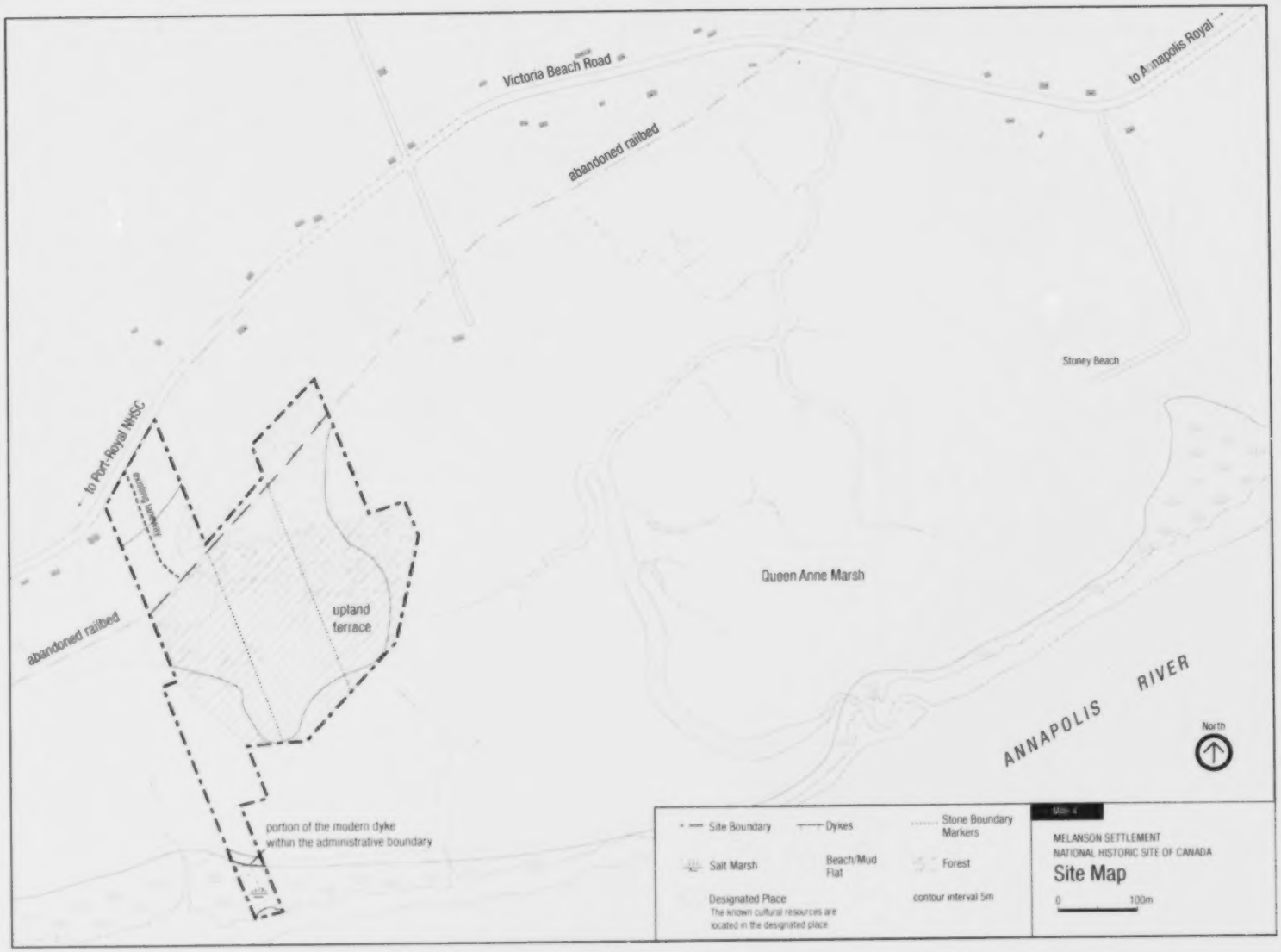
A Commemorative Integrity Statement (CIS) for Melanson Settlement NHSC was developed by staff with input from members of the local heritage and Acadian heritage communities, and was approved in 2000. A CIS is an elaboration of what is meant by commemorative integrity for a particular national historic site. It provides the benchmark for planning, managing operations, reporting and taking remedial action. A CIS identifies what is commemorated and why, which cultural resources are directly related to the reasons for the site's designation, their value and objectives for their protection, the messages of national significance and objectives for their effective communication, and other heritage values, cultural resources and messages associated with the site. The CIS for Melanson Settlement NHSC has provided direction in the development of management guidelines, and in essence has been incorporated throughout this management plan.

The CIS enables Parks Canada to specify:

- what is nationally significant about the site. This is expressed in the Statement of Commemorative Intent;
- the cultural resources of the site, as identified in the inventory, that are Level I (i.e., with direct association to the reasons for commemorating the national historic significance of the site), what constitutes their value, and the appropriate physical condition sought;
- the messages about the site's national historic significance to be communicated to the public and how to evaluate the effectiveness of their communication to the public;
- the site's Level II cultural resources (i.e., with heritage values not directly related to the national historic significance of the site) and other heritage values, and the conditions under which they will be respected, and;
- the site's messages not related to the reasons for designation, and how to evaluate the effectiveness of their communication.

A. Statement of Commemorative Intent

A site's national historic significance is encapsulated in a Statement of Commemorative Intent. The rationale is contained in recommendations by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to the responsible Minister or is gleaned from Minutes of Board meetings. In the case of Melanson Settlement NHSC, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada discussed the possibility of commemorating the Site during meetings


Victoria Beach Road
to Annapolis Royal
abandoned railbed
Stoney Beach
to Port Royal NHSC
Interpretive Building
upland terrace
abandoned railbed
Queen Anne Marsh
ANNAPOLIS RIVER
North
portion of the modern dyke within the administrative boundary
Site Boundary
Dykes
Stone Boundary Markers
Salt Marsh
Beach/Mud Flat
Forest
Designated Place
The known cultural resources are located in the designated place
contour interval 5m
Map 4
MELANSON SETTLEMENT
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE OF CANADA
Site Map
0
100m

in 1985, 1986 and 1987, with additional references made to the Site in 1987, 1994, 1998 and 2002 (For more detail on discussions by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada for this Site, see Appendix B.)

The Statement of Commemorative Intent for Melanson Settlement NHSC was drawn from Board recommendations and the first sentence of the plaque text that was approved in 1994:

"The Melanson Settlement was designated a national historic site in 1986 because its in situ resources reflect the family communities in which the Acadians settled along the Dauphin River (now Annapolis) and undertook a form of agriculture unique in North America."

The Melanson Settlement's cultural resources of national historic significance and those reflecting other heritage values, and messages of national significance and messages about other heritage values are identified in this section of the management plan. Indicators developed to assess cultural resource protection and the successful communication of messages are found in Chapter 4 (sections on Heritage Protection and Engaging Canadians).

New text for a Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque for Melanson Settlement NHSC was approved in 2002.

B. Cultural Resources

Designated place [7]

The designated place of Melanson Settlement NHSC consists of the geographic entity designated to be of national historic significance. The discussions of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada focussed on the *in situ* resources located on the upland terrace and revealed a particular interest in structures related to Acadian agriculture. Accordingly, the designated place for Melanson Settlement NHSC is the upland terrace where the *in situ* resources of this pre-Deportation Acadian family settlement are located (see Map 4: Site Map).

The geographic context of the designated place encompasses the lower Annapolis River, the vast dykelands that surround the upland terrace where the Melanson Settlement was located and, across the Queen Anne Marsh to the east, the upland where the Guilbeau Settlement had been located (known today as Stoney Beach). Some of the original dykes and field systems built and worked co-operatively by members of the Melanson and the Guilbeau Settlements

Queen Anne Marsh. *S. Quon 2001*

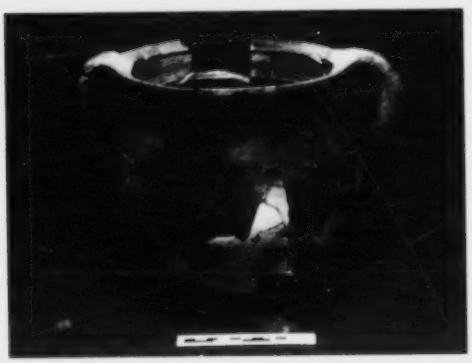
are still visible on the Queen Anne Marsh. While there have been changes to the drainage patterns behind the dykes, for the most part they still follow the most common Acadian pattern that was based on the natural drainage system. The juxtaposition of the river, the dykelands, the Melanson Settlement and the Guilbeau Settlement on the adjacent upland is typical of Acadian family settlements along the *rivière Dauphin* (Annapolis River).

[7] Designated place refers to the place designated by the responsible Minister on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada as having national historic significance. Designated place has the same meaning as historic place, which has been defined in the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* as "a site, building or other place of national historic interest or significance, and includes buildings or structures that are of national interest by reasons of age or architectural design." (*Parks Canada Guide to the Preparation of Commemorative Integrity Statements*, 2002)

The designated place of Melanson Settlement NHSC is valued for: its *in situ* resources from the Acadian period of settlement; its proximity to the dyked and cultivated salt marshes; its proximity to cultural resources from the Melanson period of settlement, including surviving sections of the Melanson-Guilbeau dykes, the field systems and archaeological remains of the Guilbeau Settlement; its views over the dyked salt marshes, the Annapolis River and the site of the former Guilbeau settlement; its geographic setting, representative of those chosen for other Acadian family settlements; its location away from modern development; and its uncompromised sense of place.

In situ *Resources and Historic Objects*

Ensuring the commemorative integrity of a national historic site requires ensuring that the *in situ* cultural resources and historic objects that symbolize or represent the site's importance are not impaired or under threat. Cultural resources that have heritage value may be either Level I or Level II. (A complete listing of cultural resources associated with the Site is found in Appendix A.)



Round bottom cooking pot, manufactured in France, is made of coarse earthenware. *A. Fennell*

Level I cultural resources relate directly to the national historic significance of the site and those on site are located within the designated place. At Melanson Settlement NHSC, Level I cultural resources include the eighteen known archaeological features and most of the archaeological collection.

Level I resources collectively are valued as tangible remains of the Melanson Settlement and for being representative of the Acadian family settlements located along the Annapolis River. They provide insight into the size and spatial relationship of the settlement's components with information on pre-Deportation Acadian architecture, agriculture and lifestyle. Collectively, these cultural resources can provide important information on the Melanson family settlement that in turn can serve as a model for other pre-Deportation sites, as well as provide an excellent baseline of comparison for fragmented components of other Acadian settlement sites.

Level II cultural resources have heritage value not directly linked to the reasons for the site's national historic significance. *In situ* Level II cultural resources may be located either within the designated place or within the broader administered property. Level II cultural resources associated with Melanson Settlement NHSC include the portion of the modern dyke located within the property, stone boundary lines, a trace railbed and a small part of the archaeological collection.

The portion of the modern dyke that is within the administered property is valued as being representative of dykeland agriculture that was an integral part of the economic life of the Melanson Settlement, and that was introduced into North America at Port-Royal and became a distinctive part of Acadian life along the Annapolis River and elsewhere in Acadia. The portion of the modern dyke represents three centuries of dyke construction and a continued use to the present day, serving as an important element of the distinctive cultural landscape and a symbol of pre-Deportation Acadian life.

The trace railbed has local and regional value as a remnant of the final years of the railway-building era in Nova Scotia, before roads became the main means of transportation. Built by the Middleton and Victoria Beach Railway Company and sold to the Halifax and South Western a few months before its opening in 1906, the line began in Middleton and eventually ran along the north side of the Annapolis River to Port Wade. The line carried iron ore from the Torbrook and Nictaux mines to Port Wade for export. Less successful than had been hoped, the line

was abandoned in 1925 by its new owner, the Canadian National Railway. The trace railbed contributes to our understanding of the evolution of the property during the 20th century.

The stone boundary lines are valued because they reflect the land patterns established with the Planter grants and perpetuated in subsequent subdivisions of the land, and they contribute to an understanding of the evolution of the land base in the 18th and 19th centuries after the period of the Melanson Settlement.

C. Messages

Another element of commemorative integrity relates to heritage presentation. Core messages that convey the national historic significance of a site must be identified and effectively communicated to the public to ensure commemorative integrity of a national historic site. The reasons for designation of Melanson Settlement NHSC are derived from the Statement of Commemorative Intent. Other messages have been identified that are associated with the Site but not related to the reasons for designation of the Site.

There are two reasons for designation of Melanson Settlement NHSC:

The Melanson Settlement's in situ resources reflect the family communities in which the Acadians settled along the Dauphin (now Annapolis) River.

The Site's archaeological resources span almost ninety years of settlement by the Melanson family and associates, from the founding of the settlement in about 1664 to the deportation of the Acadians from the Annapolis Royal area in December 1755. The Melanson Settlement is representative of Acadian settlements along the Annapolis River that grew into family settlements as children married and established households near their parents. The Melanson Settlement is an example of a pre-Deportation Acadian archaeological settlement site, rare because it is relatively intact having remained undisturbed following the Deportation.

The Melanson Settlement's in situ resources reflect the family communities in which the Acadians undertook a form of agriculture unique in North America.

Typical Acadian family farming communities were situated on upland terraces adjacent to rich salt marshes that could be dyked and the reclaimed land planted with extensive fields of grain and peas. Dykeland agriculture, introduced at Port-Royal in the 1630s, became a distinctive part of Acadian life. The practice contrasts with the practices of other early colonists in North America, who typically cleared forests for settlement. Dykeland agriculture made use of strong kinship ties within and cooperation between family settlements. Vestiges of the early dykes and the associated field patterns on the marshlands adjacent to the former Melanson Settlement are still evident today, preserved by their continual use as farms.

Other messages about the Melanson Settlement's historic values aside from the reasons for its national significance should also be conveyed in heritage presentation efforts to engage Canadians. These messages include:

The Melanson Settlement had close ties with the Acadian communities of Les Mines (located around the Minas Basin), particularly with Grand-Pré, which was founded by Pierre Melanson, brother of Charles Melanson.

The Melanson Settlement is representative of the Acadian communities of the Annapolis Royal (formerly Port-Royal) area decimated by the Deportation in December 1755, when their buildings were destroyed and their residents sent to the British colonies along the Atlantic seaboard south of Nova Scotia.

The Melanson Settlement was part of Granville Township, which was laid out in 1759 and granted to New England Planters in 1759 and the 1760s.

The dyked marshes of the Melanson Settlement have remained in use up to the present day and constitute part of the legacy of the Acadian dykeland begun on the rivière Dauphin (Annapolis River) in the early 1600s.

Melanson Settlement NHSC *is part of a system of parks and sites that span the country telling the history of Canada's development as a nation.*

2.3 A FRAMEWORK FOR MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The overall objective of this management plan is to provide direction to managers of Melanson Settlement NHSC for the next decade, to ensure the Site's commemorative integrity. Because the CIS for Melanson Settlement NHSC provides benchmarks of commemorative integrity, providing information about where value lies for the designated place and the cultural resources of the Site and guidance on the appropriate messages to convey the national significance of the Site, the CIS plays a fundamental role in the selection and choice of appropriate management actions. Accordingly, the objectives for the designated place and for the cultural resources of national significance identified in the CIS have framed the development of strategic management direction for Melanson Settlement NHSC.

While the CIS outlines objectives to ensure the protection, knowledge and understanding, and respect of the designated place and cultural resources, the CIS does not prescribe or proscribe particular management actions. Management direction has been selected that seeks to achieve the CIS objectives and to address the cultural resource management principles of value, public benefit, integrity, respect and understanding. Proposed management direction seeks to ensure that the cultural resources are not impaired or threatened and that messages about the Site's national historic significance are conveyed. Activities that compromise the commemorative integrity of the Site and that do not follow cultural resource management principles are not permitted at the Site.

3.0 Vision

During the development of this management plan, Canadians expressed their ideas and desires for the future of Melanson Settlement NHSC. The Melanson Settlement is well known by local residents and the neighbours of the Site, and is regarded as a representative ancestral homesite by Acadians in the Maritimes and further afield. The sense of place of the Site and its undeveloped beauty, tranquility, views of the Annapolis River and the dykelands all contribute to its uniqueness. Canadians wish to see this preserved.

In future, Canadians hope that Melanson Settlement NHSC will continue to protect the cultural resources of the Site, which reflect the family communities in which Acadians inhabited the length of the Annapolis River and the dykeland agriculture they practiced. This archaeological site will be well understood and well protected, with heritage presentation and management suitable to the Site. New discoveries at the Site will also contribute to a better understanding of Acadian daily life of the period.

Visitors will be able to explore the Site, enjoying views of the Annapolis River and the Queen Anne Marsh from the Site's upland terrace. Visitors will be knowledgeable and prepared for the experience, especially conscious of the fragility of the cultural resources and of the dykes. Heritage presentation at the Site will effectively contribute to telling Parks Canada national messages, and contribute to regional efforts to tell the stories of Acadians and of the history of the region. The Site will maintain its sense of place.

Much of the site is covered in oldfield. *S. Quon 2001*

Vegetation will be managed at the Site to maintain evocative views and to help protect the cultural resources. Vigorous efforts will be made to maintain the natural values of the Site and to use environmental "best practices" in all facets of Site operations and management.

Melanson Settlement NHSC will form an integral part of the broader geographic context, and contribute to efforts to preserve and protect the landscape and sense of place. While there is no intention to seek to recreate the landscape as it would have been in the 17th century, the property should be maintained in keeping with its current geographic context. Parks Canada staff administering Melanson Settlement NHSC will maintain good working relationships with local landowners, local heritage organizations, the Province of Nova Scotia and the regional Acadian community, with effective mechanisms to receive public input that is reflected in management and operation of the Site.

4.0 Strategic Direction for Ensuring Commemorative Integrity and Site Management

4.1 HERITAGE PROTECTION

A. Designated Place and Geographic Context

The twenty-seven hectares of the administered property of Melanson Settlement NHSC include the specific part that is designated of national historic significance and known as the designated place. The designated place for Melanson Settlement NHSC is the upland terrace of the property where the known *in situ* cultural resources of this pre-Deportation Acadian family settlement are located (see Map 4: Site Map). The discussions of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada focussed on the *in situ* cultural resources of the upland village located on the terrace and indicated a particular interest in structures related to Acadian agriculture; these discussions consequently determined the extent of the designated place.

The administered property of Melanson Settlement NHSC is an integral part of its geographic context or the broader landscape. Melanson Settlement NHSC blends well with the surrounding dykelands and oldfields. The geographic context shows the signs of modification and influence from human use and has a special cultural meaning for local residents. The geographic context surrounding and including the Site may be described as a "remnant Acadian cultural landscape." The scope of this landscape includes the lower Annapolis River, the vast dykelands surrounding the upland terrace and still showing traces of the original dykes and field systems and, across the Queen Anne Marsh to the east, another upland terrace upon which the co-cultivaters of the dykeland, the Guilbeau family, established their own settlement (now known as Stoney Beach). The combination of the river, the dykelands and the settlements is typical of Acadian settlement patterns along the Annapolis River.

The remnant Acadian cultural landscape found here is unparalleled elsewhere in what was old Acadia. The geographic context of Melanson Settlement has a history of 300 years of intensive cultivation. The original dykes, road and field systems built and worked cooperatively by the members of the Melanson and Guilbeau Settlements are still visible on the Queen Anne Marsh. The river, the marshlands and the surviving dykes all contribute to the Site's "sense of place." The views of the surrounding land, especially of the dyked Queen Anne Marsh, allow the visitor to imagine what the Melanson Settlement might have been like when it was inhabited. However, although the tradition of farming in the region is strong, it appears to be in decline. Not all property owners farm their land and natural landscape succession prevails on some unmanaged properties. The dykelands are gradually being invaded by wild plant species, succeeding to low shrubs and eventually to trees. This succession alters the appearance of the landscape and will make it difficult to maintain the historic dykelands.

Although the surrounding geographic context of the Site is considered important to the Site's commemorative integrity, Parks Canada's jurisdiction for Site management and operation is limited to the administered property. There is no intention for Parks Canada to acquire additional property.

Situation Analysis:

As described in the CIS, the commemorative integrity of the designated place of Melanson Settlement NHSC will not be impaired or under threat when:

- the Site is understood and appreciated by all of those whose decisions and actions affect its management,
- the Site is managed according to Parks Canada *Cultural Resource Management Policy*,
- Parks Canada continues to work with other levels of government, the Queen Anne Marsh Body and adjacent landowners to ensure the protection of the Site's cultural resources and topography, the historic view planes are maintained,
- the sense of place continues to be uncompromised, and
- the values of the Site are communicated.

Until its transfer to the federal government, Melanson Settlement NHSC was subject to provincial legislation including the *Special Places Protection Act*[8]. Parks Canada as the administrator of the Site applies federal legislation including the *Parks Canada Agency Act*, policy tools such as the *Parks Canada Cultural Resource Management Policy*, and other means to ensure protection of the cultural resources and of the Site.

Currently, there is no comprehensive protection of the geographic context as a whole. The Province of Nova Scotia has indicated an interest in working with property owners, especially the Queen Anne Marsh Body, to protect the character of the broader landscape of which Melanson Settlement NHSC forms a part. Parks Canada should continue to work with the Province, the Marsh Body and other stakeholders to ensure the character and quality of the geographic context is maintained.

As with other national historic sites, it is planned that Melanson Settlement NHSC will be commemorated by means of a Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque. The plaque text was approved in 2002.

Goal:

To protect and manage the designated place of Melanson Settlement NHSC, respecting its geographic context, so that the national historic site will seamlessly form part of the broader landscape, the Site's sense of place is not diminished and historic view planes are maintained

Management direction:

- Parks Canada will manage vegetation to protect key views from the Site of the surrounding landscape and to ensure that the Site is consistent with the geographic context. The vegetation management will be subject to environmental assessment to ensure there are no undue detrimental effects to the natural values of the Site, and will be guided by a vegetation management plan
- Parks Canada will cooperate with other groups and organizations (such as the Province of Nova Scotia and the Queen Anne Marsh Body) to promote the protection and management of the geographic context of the Site
- Parks Canada will unveil a Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque for the Site

B. *In situ* Resources

Archaeological Features: Level I Resources [9]

The *in situ* archaeological remains of a portion of the original Melanson Settlement constitute the Level I resources of the Site (see Appendix A for an inventory of cultural resources). The archaeological features were originally located during archaeological surveys conducted between 1984 and 1986. The records generated during the course of surveys, testing and excavation

[8] The Nova Scotia *Special Places Protection Act* (R.S.N.S., 1989) requires a research permit for exploration or excavation at any archaeological or historical site. Without a permit or special permission, excavation or alteration of a site or removal of objects is not allowed. Fines of several thousand dollars can be levied upon those found in contravention of the Act.

of *in situ* cultural resources on the Site form an invaluable part of our understanding of the resources. Records related to the archaeological collection, including records associated with *in situ* cultural resources, are housed with excavated artifacts at a secure Parks Canada facility in Halifax. In 2001, the locations and types of the *in situ* cultural resources were precisely recorded on survey maps[10].

To date, eighteen archaeological features have been located on the upland terrace; these can be divided into five types. The first and most numerous type consists of seven buildings with cellars. Six of the cellar ruins consist of a more or less square depression approximately one metre deep and an average of 6.5 m square. Situated on the west side of these ruins is a grassy-covered mound of chimney/oven collapse. The seventh cellar ruin is distinctively different; the ruin measures 13 m by 7 m and consists of a square, straight-sided cellar depression in the eastern half and, to the west, a footing and the remains of what may have been a central chimney.

The second and third feature types are large and small circular mounds. The three large mounds have an average diameter of 6 m and the three small mounds are an average of 3.5 m in diameter. Windmills, dovecotes, outbuildings, pigsties, outdoor ovens and well covers are examples of round farm structures common to the period. The fourth feature type is a single ruin, a depression with a diameter of 1.5 m. Its location and configuration suggest a well. The final type of feature consists of a group of four unidentifiable ruins. Many of these ruins are overgrown by alders and hawthorn. This vegetative cover has prevented a detailed investigation.

Between 1984 and 1986, one of the house sites was fully excavated, uncovering four different structures built in succession before 1755. Two other archaeological features were tested. The excavations yielded material that, with the exception of four artifacts, all dates from the Acadian period of settlement; there is no evidence that the site was used as a domestic settlement after the Deportation in 1755. This fits with the historic record that the buildings of the Planter settlement were located near the present-day paved road. On the basis of this evidence the archaeological features are considered to date to the period of Acadian occupation.

Historic maps (dating from 1708, 1710 and 1725) recorded in some detail the upland terrain and the general location of households. A comparison of the archaeological survey with the 1708 and 1710 maps allows us to assign family names to some of the cellar ruins. The Melanson Settlement is the only complete complex of pre-Deportation Acadian building remains that can be specifically associated with family names and related documentation.

Features with Heritage Values: Level II Resources [11]

A number of above-ground features have been identified, and determined, due to their historical, aesthetic or environmental qualities, to have value and to be Level II cultural resources. Level II *in situ* resources are a small portion of the modern dyke, trace railbed and stone boundary lines.

A small portion (approximately 50 m in length) of the modern dyke that runs along the Annapolis River is included in the administered property of Melanson Settlement NHSC. This portion of the modern dyke was built inland of the remains of

[9] Level I cultural resources are cultural resources with direct association to the reasons for commemorating the national historic significance of a site.

[10] *Melanson Settlement National Historic Site of Canada Lower Granville, Nova Scotia Heritage Recording Report*, May 2001, Heritage Recording Number: 430988, prepared by Real Property Services for Parks Canada, Heritage Conservation Program

[11] Level II cultural resources are cultural resources with heritage values not directly related to the national historic significance of a site.

earlier dykes constructed by Melanson Settlement residents and others.

The trace or bed of the Halifax and South Western Rail Line that runs through the administered property is visible. Although now covered in hawthorn and other dense vegetation, the trace of the line is still apparent on the ground and is visible in aerial photos.

Remains of stone boundary markers, erected by the Planters. *S. Quon 2001.*

Stone boundary lines run north-south through the Site from the main road, extending in at least one case to the southern edge of the upland. They divide the Site into three narrow and parallel parcels, and reflect the pattern of New England Planter land grants.

Situation Analysis:

Most of the *in situ* Level I cultural resources are below ground and unexcavated. While under ground they are afforded some level of protection. However, there are a number of possible threats to the integrity of both above- and below-ground cultural resources.

Unmanaged vegetation

Many of the archaeological features are covered in hawthorn and alder. The vegetation growth has prevented a detailed recording of these features and is likely disturbing subsurface elements. Regular vegetation management can minimize impairment of archaeological features by vegetation growth and other natural processes. There has been little management of vegetation growth at the Site. Selective mowing last occurred in 1999. Vegetation management at the Site should be directed by a vegetation management plan, and be preceded by environmental assessment.

Cultural vandalism or disturbance

Cultural vandalism or disturbance of the archaeological features has occurred at the Site to a limited extent, and appears to be inadvertent in some cases and deliberate in others. In the past, there was evidence of looting activities, where individuals locate and extract artifacts from an archaeological feature and in the process disturb its integrity and diminish its archaeological value. More recently, all-terrain vehicle recreational use of the Site and trucks employed by clam harvesters to access the river and dykes have

Vegetation can disturb archaeological features and requires active management. *S. Quon 2001.*

been largely unmanaged, and could damage both below-ground and above-ground cultural resources at Melanson Settlement NHSC, as well as damage the dykes. Such disturbance may affect foundations and physical remains. Cultural vandalism and disturbance can be mitigated by strategic site design, site monitoring and public education, and by enforcement of prohibitive legislation.

Strategic site design

Strategic site design can direct visitor circulation on the Site away from the most sensitive archaeological features, and can locate site development in parts of the Site where they will have the least impact. Vegetation management can be used in conjunction with site design to deliberately obscure some cultural resources and influence visitor circulation at the Site. Much remains to be learned about the Site, and there is little question that the eighteen known archaeological features are not the only remains of the settlement on the upland terrace. Further excavation would probably also reveal other wooden structures without cellars or chimneys (such as barns, sheds and dairies) and non-architectural elements of the Settlement (such as gardens, fences, midden sites, other wells) and the road that is shown on historic plans. Any development on the Site must proceed with care so that any new cultural resources are unearthed using accepted archaeological practices. Development of Melanson Settlement NHSC will require careful archaeological assessment, both to protect the cultural resources and to assist with interpretation. The Site spatial database will be used to track known cultural and natural resources, and to predict areas of elevated potential for undetected cultural resources.

Public Education

While the Site was under provincial jurisdiction, the location and unique nature of the Site were not widely advertised, as a strategy to protect the cultural resources. However, under federal ownership and once developed as a national historic site, the Site will become more widely known and visited, and other strategies for cultural resource protection must be developed. Education of Site audiences about the archaeological features, as part of the on- and off-site heritage presentation programs, will contribute to better public understanding of the fragility of such *in situ* resources and appreciation of efforts in place to protect them.

Enforcement

While under provincial jurisdiction, the *in situ* remains were protected under general clauses of the Nova Scotia *Special Places Protection Act*, that allowed fines to be levied upon anyone excavating artifacts, damaging a site or exploring without a permit. As administrators of the Site, Parks Canada will apply federal legislation including the *Parks Canada Agency Act*, and policy tools such as the *Parks Canada Cultural Resource Management Policy*, to ensure protection of the cultural resources and of the Site. On occasion the Royal Canadian Mounted Police have been called to the Site following indications of pothunting. However, the relative isolation of the property makes it difficult to detect illegal or damaging activities as they occur; monitoring will play an important role in enforcing protective regulations and policy.

Monitoring

Enforcement of legislation as a tool to protect cultural resources is effective only if violators are witnessed. To date, monitoring of Melanson Settlement NHSC has been sporadic, qualitative and informal, conducted irregularly by Parks Canada and provincial staff. Other monitoring occurs informally by observant neighbours. There are no plans to staff the Site, in keeping with the level of visitor services and heritage presentation proposed in this management plan for the Site. Therefore, other means of monitoring the cultural resources, possibly in conjunction with other parties, may be necessary to recognize changes to the cultural resources and to the Site in general and to be able to identify perpetrators.

Indicators of Effective Cultural Resource Protection

The CIS for Melanson Settlement NHSC has clearly described the conditions under which commemorative integrity for the cultural resources will not be impaired or under threat. These conditions have guided development of management direction for Level I and Level II resources.

Level I resources will not be impaired or under threat when:

- they are stable and not under threat from natural processes, including vegetation processes
- harmful human activity such as vandalism and intrusive site development activities does not take place
- no intervention takes place on the site without archaeological consultation or testing
- archaeological records of excavated resources are maintained in accordance with accepted conservation practices, and
- the values of the resources are communicated.

The heritage values of Level II resources will be respected when:

- they are managed as Level II cultural resources as defined by Parks Canada *Cultural Resource Management Policy*
- their values are communicated
- Parks Canada continues to work with other levels of government, the Marsh Body and landowners to protect the dyke
- boundary lines are not compromised by future development or by decisions affecting the Melanson Settlement site, and
- Level II objects and their records are maintained in a stable and secure condition in accordance with Parks Canada collections policy

Goal:

To ensure the ongoing protection of *in situ* cultural resources of national historic significance (Level I) and with other heritage values (Level II) from human and natural threats at the Site

Management direction:

- Parks Canada will manage vegetation to protect *in situ* cultural resources. Vegetation management will be subject to environmental assessment to ensure there are no undue detrimental effects to the natural values of the Site, and will be guided by a vegetation management plan
- Parks Canada will work toward protection of *in situ* cultural resources from looting activities and other human disturbance by using various protection strategies, such as strategic site design, public education, the application of appropriate legislation, monitoring and neighbourhood watch
- Parks Canada will ensure that site planning and development is preceded by archaeological assessment to minimize the effect of site development on known and as yet unknown cultural resources of the Site
- Parks Canada will pursue the transfer of ownership of the artifact collection and associated records of Melanson Settlement NHSC from the Province of Nova Scotia to Parks Canada

C. Historic Objects

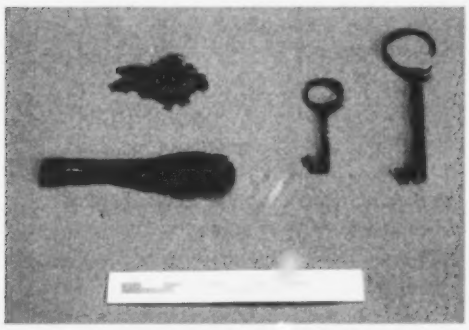
Approximately 29 000 artifacts and 69 000 faunal remains were collected through archaeological excavation between 1984 and 1986. These large numbers of artifacts and remains reflect the fragmented nature of the excavated archaeological remains. Virtually all of these (99.9%) can be considered resources of national historic significance (Level I).

Only four artifacts from the archaeological collection are not related to the Melanson Settlement and constitute the Level II historic objects. Three of these are pre-contact Aboriginal artifacts. Two distinct stone artifacts were recovered at the Site; both are objects that archaeologists call projectile points and may have been used as tips for arrows. They are characteristic of the period immediately prior to, or shortly after, contact between Mi'kmaq and Europeans. A third stone object with an incised design may also have been produced by Mi'kmaq.

Archaeologists investigate the site. *Parks Canada*

The material that appears to originate from prior use by Mi'kmaq of the area is not from a context that suggests that there is an intact Mi'kmaw site; however, as only a small portion of the Site has been investigated by archaeologists, it is possible that additional evidence of use by Mi'kmaq may be found. Melanson Settlement NHSC is located in an area that is known to have been used and occupied by Mi'kmaq for thousands of years. The fourth artifact is a fragment of post-1755 European ceramic.

The artifacts have been cleaned, conserved and catalogued. Several artifacts form part of exhibits at Grand-Pré and Fort Anne NHSCs describing typical Acadian family life. The artifact collection, except for what is on exhibit, and all records associated with the excavated artifacts and *in situ* cultural resources are now held in a Parks Canada facility in Halifax. To date, no report specific to the artifact collection has been produced. The majority of the faunal material is at a Parks Canada facility in Halifax, although a small amount is located in the care of the Zooarchaeological Identification Centre, National Museum of Natural Sciences, National Museums Canada in Ottawa. The faunal collection has been analyzed (see report by Still 1986). Although held by Parks Canada, the artifacts and all records are the property of the Province of Nova Scotia. An agreement signed in 1984 between Parks Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia conferred the responsibility on Parks Canada to serve as the repository for the artifacts and records associated with the archaeological work conducted at Melanson Settlement NHSC.



Artifacts from Melanson Settlement NHSC. *A. Fennell*

Situation Analysis:

The artifact collection and associated records (including records associated with *in situ* resources and archaeological work) were not automatically transferred from the provincial to the federal government with the transfer of the land parcel of Melanson Settlement NHSC. Ownership of the collection should be transferred from the Province of Nova Scotia to Parks Canada, to formalize the custodianship described in the 1984 agreement between the parties. To this end, Parks Canada will need to make arrangements with the Province for the formal transfer of ownership of the collection.

The artifacts and archaeological records provide insight into and a tangible connection to the daily lives of the settlers at the Melanson Settlement. They are a significant part of the cultural resources of national historic significance to the Site. However, incomplete analysis of and reporting on the recovered artifacts, *in situ* archaeological features and completed archaeological work may hamper heritage interpretation and research. A comprehensive archaeological report should be prepared based on existing research.

Goal:

To maintain the artifact collection of Melanson Settlement NHSC and associated records as a single collection, with appropriate storage and conservation conditions. The collection and associated records will be accessible for the exhibit of artifacts and for research.

Management direction:

- Parks Canada will continue to maintain the artifact collection and associated records in a stable and secure condition consistent with Parks Canada's archaeological collections policy
- Parks Canada will pursue the transfer of ownership of the artifact collection and associated records of Melanson Settlement NHSC from the Province of Nova Scotia to Parks Canada
- Parks Canada will complete a comprehensive archaeological report for Melanson Settlement NHSC based on existing research
- Parks Canada will seek to ensure that the collection of historic objects is available for study and interpretive purposes, as is appropriate

The public provided input at open houses. *S. Quon 2002*

4.2 ENGAGING CANADIANS

Parks Canada strives to communicate with Canadians about its activities for three purposes: to raise awareness of the system of national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas; to foster understanding and enjoyment of individual heritage places, and; to strengthen emotional connections to and a sense of ownership of heritage places as important symbols of Canada. Ensuring the commemorative integrity of Melanson Settlement NHSC requires effective communication of the reasons why the Site is considered of national historic significance. Audiences for these messages include on-site visitors, other audiences (including virtual visitors), and stakeholders, or those with an interest in the mandate, policies and actions of Parks Canada, including non-governmental organizations, industry, public sector, the media and interested individuals.

The reasons for the designation of Melanson Settlement NHSC, and messages not related to the reasons for designation, have been identified in Chapter 2. The effective communication of these messages is crucial to ensuring the commemorative integrity of the Site. The effectiveness of communication efforts can be assessed against broad learning objectives for the Site heritage presentation program; the objectives relate to the reasons for the national significance of a Site. The reasons for the national historic significance of Melanson Settlement NHSC are effectively communicated when:

- the overall heritage presentation program conveys the reasons for the national historic significance, including the Level I cultural resources, and other heritage values of the Site
- as many people as possible (visitors and other audiences) who experience the heritage presentation program for the Site understand the national importance of this place to the history of Canada
- as many people as possible (visitors and other audiences) who experience the heritage presentation program for the Site understand that Melanson Settlement's *in situ* resources reflect the family communities in which the Acadians settled along the *rivière Dauphin* (Annapolis River)
- as many people as possible (visitors and other audiences) who experience the heritage presentation program for the Site understand that Melanson Settlement's *in situ* resources reflect the family communities in which the Acadians undertook a form of agriculture unique in North America

A. On-Site Heritage Presentation

The on-site heritage presentation program for a national historic site strives to present information about the specific site, as well as its role in the national system of heritage protected areas, using experiential, personal and non-personal programming.

Currently, there are no means on-site to "engage Canadians" about Melanson Settlement NHSC. During and following the archaeological work at the Site in the early 1980s, Parks Canada and Nova Scotia Museum staff periodically led supervised tours of the Site. However, at this time no elements of a heritage presentation program are in place at the Site. Until the Site is developed and there are programs and facilities, as well as measures in place to ensure visitor safety and cultural resource protection, visitors will not be actively encouraged to visit the Site.

Melanson Settlement NHSC has a natural beauty and sense of place. The geographic context and views can help convey the stories of the Site. Excellent vantage points allow views of the Site and its surroundings, the Queen Anne Marsh, Goat Island and the Annapolis River. Areas of low, oldfield growth contribute to the feeling of openness at the Site, providing a sense of what the Site might have been like as an Acadian agricultural settlement. Many of the Site's known archaeological features occur in these open areas, within a half-kilometer of the proposed visitor entry point at the paved road. Vegetation management will be necessary to enhance the visitor experience, to maintain the qualities that assist in telling the stories of the Site and to generally contribute to the setting, and to ensure protection of the *in situ* cultural resources of the Site.

Canadians expressed the opinion that visitors should be able to see, experience and understand the cultural resources of Melanson Settlement NHSC, that visitors should have tangible things to see and experience while at the Site. However, Canadians feel that site development should not overwhelm or compromise the unique character of Melanson Settlement NHSC.

Situation Analysis:

Detailed heritage presentation planning must precede any development of the Site. The nationally significant messages for Melanson Settlement NHSC have been identified and will serve as the basis for interpretive programming. As well, the program will also present a range of other important historic values, including the Level I cultural resources, and other heritage values identified but not related to the reasons for designation. Involvement of local heritage and the Acadian and Mi'kmaw communities will be essential in this planning phase. The design of the on-site heritage presentation program must be tailored to the expected and target audiences.

Audiences

Potential audiences for the on-site heritage presentation program for Melanson Settlement NHSC have been identified through extrapolation of information about visitors from nearby national historic sites with related themes, and from knowledge of typical audiences of sites featuring non-personal media. In the event that Melanson Settlement NHSC is developed, evolving visitation patterns and visitor expectations and needs will need to be assessed and programs modified to meet circumstances as they become more clearly defined. Because personal programming is not envisioned as part of the on-site heritage presentation offer at the Site, educational or school groups who seek that kind of heritage presentation offer are not expected to be a significant on-site audience group. The following groups are likely to visit Melanson Settlement NHSC, and are the expected audiences for a non-personal on-site heritage presentation program:

Acadian Heritage

Visitors wishing to explore their own Acadian heritage are expected to visit Melanson Settlement NHSC as one of a number of heritage attractions in the region. Such visitors will seek both the experience of visiting the location of a representative ancestral settlement from an early Acadian period, as well as information about Acadian settlement generally throughout the region.

Commercial Groups

Escorted visitors traveling in groups by bus have clearly defined needs and expectations. Likely only commercial trips tailored for those with a particular historical interest will be attracted to the Site.

Recreational Users

Recreational users will primarily be local residents walking around or through the Site, enjoying its scenic natural setting, and less likely attracted by the Site's national historic significance. Such users would have low expectations for interpretive programming or services.

Family Groups

Family groups either traveling independently or visiting nearby friends and relatives may be expected to visit Melanson Settlement NHSC. Families are expected to come from away, may have a flexible traveling itinerary, and may be attracted by the accessibility and level of services of the Site. This audience group could present a significant proportion of visitation to the Site.

Special Event Participants

Melanson Settlement NHSC is expected to be a popular focal point for local and regional special events. It is anticipated that various groups, in particular reunions of families with Acadian ancestry, will have an interest in the Site. The Congrès Mondial Acadien will be held in Nova Scotia in 2004, and Melanson Settlement NHSC has a particular resonance for Acadians. The years 2004-05 also mark the 400th anniversary of French settlement in North America, a period to which the Melanson Settlement is linked.

Shoulder Season Adults

Adult travelers seeking reduced traffic, smaller crowds, flexibility and perhaps cooler temperatures of the shoulder seasons may be expected to visit Melanson Settlement NHSC if a modest level of on-site Heritage Presentation services is developed.

Elements of the Heritage Presentation Program

Traditional media (such as interpretive panels, trails, signage) should be used at Melanson Settlement NHSC. Canso Islands NHSC (Canso, Nova Scotia) and the New Brunswick exterior interpretive trail for Saint-Croix Island International Historic Site (near St. Andrews, New Brunswick) may provide models of how to communicate messages without reconstruction or elaborate facilities, and how to protect archaeological resources in the absence of staff. In the event that financial resources permit it, any site development must be preceded by environmental assessment to identify the best locations for interpretive material, trails and viewpoints. Exhibition of artifacts at the Site is unlikely to be an option, so an appropriate off-site location may be considered. In future, partners may play a role in providing or supporting on-site heritage presentation efforts at the Site.

In the short term, on-site heritage presentation is envisioned as a basic program, with the following key elements:

- An orientation panel near the parking lot: will provide an introduction to the Site and information about the national system of heritage protected areas
- The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque: describes the reasons for designation of the Site; will form part of the orientation and heritage presentation offer
- A short trail: proposed to link the service node[12] with an interpretive node; non-personal media may be used to tell the story of the Site along the trail
- An interpretive node: situated to overlook the uplands of the Melanson Settlement and the marshes leading to the Annapolis River, providing a view of the geographic context of the Melanson Settlement; will form part of the trail; non-personal media will be used to convey reasons for the national significance of the Site

Goal:

To develop on-site heritage presentation opportunities that successfully communicate to visitors the role of Melanson Settlement NHSC in the national system of heritage protected areas, as well as the Site's national historic significance and other heritage values, using means and media suited to the scale and scope of the Site

[12] See section 4.4 Visitor Services and Access for more information on the service node.

Management Direction:

- Parks Canada will develop a detailed interpretive plan for an on-site heritage presentation program, in consultation with local heritage organizations and the Acadian and Mi'kmaw communities
- Parks Canada will provide opportunities for heritage presentation at the Site that permit access to known cultural resources while ensuring their protection and that incorporate views of and from the Site; non-personal media at an interpretive node will anchor on-site heritage presentation efforts
- Parks Canada will use heritage presentation methods that are not detrimental to the cultural resources. Vegetation management may be used to enhance the visitor experience, maintain the open landscape character and viewplanes that contribute to the sense of place
- Parks Canada will measure the effectiveness of the heritage presentation program in communicating Parks Canada national messages, the reasons for the Site's designation and other heritage values

B. Education and Outreach

Canadians have had few opportunities to become familiar with Melanson Settlement NHSC through materials and media. Parks Canada Research Bulletin 250 "The Melanson Settlement: An Acadian Farming Community (ca. 1664-1755)" (1986) describes the historical and archaeological research on the Site; this remains one of the few publications pertaining specifically to the Melanson Settlement. The Site and its archaeology have been discussed in various publications, such as *The Acadians of Nova Scotia Past and Present* (Ross and Deveau 1992) and Nova Scotia Museum Curatorial Report 87, *Looking into Acadie: Three Illustrated Studies* (1999). The latter publication followed from a well-publicized exhibit of the same name on Acadian archaeology, which had an entire component on the Melanson Settlement. The exhibit originated at the Moncton Museum in 1995 during the Acadian World Congress and was displayed around the country.

Aside from these publications, the public has had other occasional opportunities to learn about the Melanson Settlement. The history and archaeology of the Site have been the subject of unpublished papers and presentations at conferences and other events, such as Elderhostel programs, by Parks Canada and Nova Scotia Museum staff. Some artifacts from Melanson Settlement NHSC excavations form part of displays at Fort Anne and Grand-Pré NHSCs that describe Acadian settlement in general terms. The Parks Canada Web site has a link to all protected heritage areas that the Agency administers or will administer, including Melanson Settlement NHSC, providing historical information, images and links to related Web sites.

Situation Analysis:

The limited opportunities for non-visitors to learn about the Melanson Settlement points to a need to improve heritage presentation outreach. Given the modest level of development proposed at Melanson Settlement NHSC, off-site audiences will be a significant audience group. Off-site heritage presentation efforts will initially target the formal education system (schools) and the Acadian community. Other audiences include stakeholders, or those with an interest in the mandate, policies and actions of Parks Canada, including non-governmental organizations, industry, public sector, the media and interested individuals. Innovative use of new media, particularly the internet, and creative partnerships may be the best ways to enhance education and outreach.

Thematic links with Grand-Pré NHSC and Fort Anne NHSC and overlapping staff and administration with nearby Port-Royal and Fort Anne NHSCs provide opportunities for Melanson Settlement NHSC and these other national historic sites to cross-link the broader story of Acadian settlement in the region and other messages. Canadians have voiced an interest in the telling of all aspects of the life of pre-Deportation Acadians as a regional story, and in ensuring that the various sites and attractions of the region complement each other in the information they provide to visitors.

For non-visitors who cannot experience Melanson Settlement NHSC first-hand, other ways are needed to present the Site to them. Images of the Site and other illustrations of the period of interest could be used in on- and off-site heritage presentation. Excavated artifacts have been photographed and a conjectural drawing has been prepared of one of the houses from the excavated archaeological feature. A scale model of an Acadian settlement was built for display at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec, based on research from excavations at Belleisle and at the Melanson Settlement as well as on historical research. As well, the Province of Nova Scotia commissioned a series of paintings depicting different facets of Acadian life based on research at Belleisle.

Goal:

To communicate the nationally significant messages and improve understanding of the national historic significance and other heritage values of Melanson Settlement NHSC off-site to the Canadian public, and specifically to people of Acadian descent.

Management direction:

- Parks Canada will develop opportunities for the non-visiting public to learn about Melanson Settlement NHSC, through the use of new and traditional media
- Parks Canada will seek to work in partnership with others, as appropriate, to communicate nationally significant messages about the Site to particular audiences, particularly making use of opportunities afforded by other sites and attractions in the vicinity

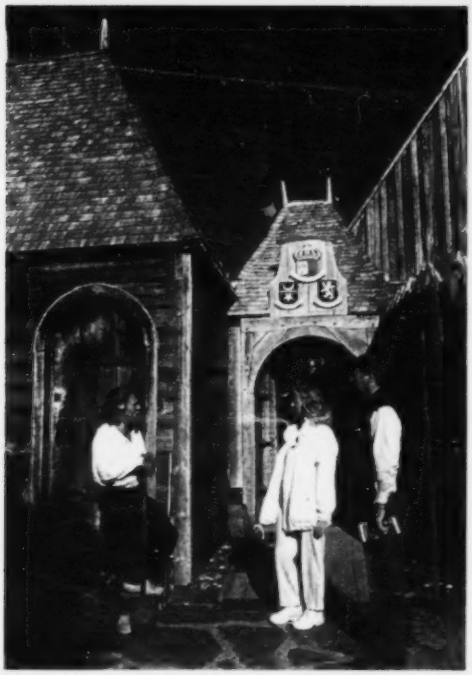
C. Working Relationships

Managers of Melanson Settlement NHSC have well-developed relationships with various stakeholders who have played a role in the Site's protection and presentation to date. Working with others whose interests are consistent with those of Parks Canada will assist in the continued protection of Melanson Settlement NHSC and may assist in effective heritage presentation and promotion of the Site.

The Province of Nova Scotia, particularly the Nova Scotia Museum, has played a significant role to date in research about and protection of the Site. In the 1980s, it was through the efforts of archaeologists associated with the Nova Scotia Museum that the Melanson Settlement was rediscovered. Efforts of Nova Scotia Museum and Parks Canada staff led to the Site being deemed to be of national historic significance and recommended for designation by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in 1986. The Province of Nova Scotia purchased the properties of interest and transferred ownership to Parks Canada in a land exchange. Until this occurred, the Province protected the Site under the provincial *Special Places Protection Act*, and worked with Parks Canada in monitoring the Site. In future, the Province will continue to play an important role in protecting lands beyond the administered property.

Private landowners surrounding the Site have demonstrated an interest in its well-being. The fact that the archaeological features on the Site have been little disturbed despite years of agricultural use attests to the care that the former landowners and surrounding neighbours have had for the Site. Parks Canada will work closely with neighbours, particularly with the Queen Anne Marsh Body, in matters affecting the use, maintenance and protection of Melanson Settlement NHSC and the surrounding dyke-lands. Cultural resources associated with the Melanson Settlement in neighbouring lands outside of the national historic site have been discovered; in 1996, two early 18th-century sluices (*aboiteaux*) were recovered near the administered property of the Site. Parks Canada will continue to work with neighbours to protect and recover cultural resources related to the Melanson Settlement that are uncovered beyond the administered property boundaries.

Local heritage organizations and nearby heritage attractions offer natural opportunities for interpretive partnerships. Melanson Settlement NHSC is located close to other national historic sites (i.e., Port-



Above: North Hills Museum, part of the Nova Scotia Museum, the family of provincial museums. *Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage*

Left: Port-Royal NHSC. *B. Townsend 2001*

Royal, Fort Anne and Grand-Pré) and North Hills Museum. The developed interpretive programs at these established facilities could expand on the references already made to the Melanson Settlement, or expand their programs to encompass the nationally significant messages of the Site. Local historical associations, such as the Historic Restoration Society of Annapolis County and the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal, have members with a keen interest in the Site. The Acadian heritage community has been vocal and enthusiastic about the future of Melanson Settlement NHSC, and about the prospects for the Site to communicate about the daily life of Acadians. Local heritage and Acadian heritage organizations should play a strong role in developing the on- and off-site interpretive programs. The Mi'kmaw community in Nova Scotia has a role to play in developing interpretive programming for this and other historic sites, particularly those with an Acadian theme, to ensure that the pre-European presence of First Nations in the area and the positive historical relations between Mi'kmaq and Acadians are themes that are communicated.

Members of the local and regional tourism industry work with the Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit of Parks Canada in joint promotion and marketing efforts. There may be further opportunities to enhance these efforts to include working with attractions such as the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens and Upper Clements Theme Park.

Situation Analysis:

Strong working relationships will be helpful to continue to ensure the commemorative integrity of Melanson Settlement NHSC, particularly to protect the cultural resources and the persistence of the broader geographic context, to raise awareness of the Site as a heritage attraction to ensure appropriate expectations of visitors, and to provide services on- or off-site that could not otherwise be offered to enhance the visitor experience.

Ensuring good relationships requires that Parks Canada be aware of others' efforts and interests that may have an impact on Melanson Settlement NHSC, and communicate

with others to arrive at a common understanding of the future of the Site. The Site's isolation and the prospect of limited or no staff on-site make the Site vulnerable; the vigilance of interested neighbours will be invaluable in safeguarding the Site. Likewise, Parks Canada should continue to listen to the concerns and interests of other landowners, particularly regarding appropriate use of the property. Such interactions need not necessarily be formalized.

As well, the continued involvement of local heritage organizations, the Acadian and Mi'kmaw communities in the Maritimes, and other interested communities in developing and possibly offering heritage presentation at the Site or at other venues will be necessary to ensure the credibility of the heritage presentation program and to ensure that what is being offered will fit into a larger story collectively told by sites and attractions in the region.

Goal:

To develop new and strengthen existing partnerships to help ensure the commemorative integrity of and community support for Melanson Settlement NHSC.

Management direction:

- Parks Canada will continue to develop and improve relationships with various organizations and groups, such as the Acadian community, the Mi'kmaw community, local heritage organizations, local landowners and the Province of Nova Scotia
- Parks Canada will seek to work with these organizations and groups on heritage protection, heritage presentation and outreach and promotion of Melanson Settlement NHSC and to ensure the survival of the unique qualities of the geographic context
- Parks Canada will cooperate with neighbours and the Province of Nova Scotia to identify, protect and monitor cultural resources related to the Melanson Settlement that may be discovered beyond the administered property

D. External Relations

Currently there are no efforts to market Melanson Settlement NHSC to potential visitors. Parks Canada's Web site conveys basic information about the Site, although visitation will not be encouraged until the Site is developed and facilities and protection measures are in place.

It is expected that visitors will discover Melanson Settlement NHSC while in the area visiting other well-known sites and attractions. Statistics and visitor surveys from recent years seem to indicate that nearby national historic sites predominantly receive American and Canadian adult visitors who plan to stay several nights and to make several stops in the area. Studies of Parks Canada visitors in Atlantic Canada have indicated a trend in increasing numbers of educated visitors and visitors interested in eco-tourism, outdoor and adventure opportunities. As well, as indicated by a recent travel trade survey, visitors are seeking enriched, participatory and authentic cultural experiences and are willing to travel longer distances into the shoulder season. These considerations should be taken into account when developing an external relations and promotion strategy for Melanson Settlement NHSC.

Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit of Parks Canada has a well-developed external relations structure that serves all national historic sites and the national park in Mainland Nova Scotia, directed by a dedicated marketing plan and marketing manager. The Field Unit's marketing program involves various activities with well-established partners including Nova Scotia Tourism and the Evangeline Trail Tourism Association.

Situation Analysis:

External relations activities will strive to create appropriate expectations about a visit to Melanson Settlement NHSC. In the event that the Site is developed, visitors would need to understand the modest level of Site development, especially when compared with neighbouring Port-Royal and Fort Anne NHSCs.

Promotional efforts for Melanson Settlement NHSC will tap into the external relations mechanisms already developed for Parks Canada in Mainland Nova Scotia. Many of the current marketing initiatives may be able to include information on Melanson Settlement NHSC when the Site is "market-ready," appropriately communicating the messages of the Site to target markets and developing appropriate expectations in prospective visitors. A variety of tools can be employed including media relations, publications, the Parks Canada Web site and industry relations.

Additional opportunities may be explored to enhance joint promotion and marketing in conjunction with organizations such as the Annapolis Royal Historic Gardens, which has a replica of an Acadian cottage, and Upper Clements Park, a nearby family entertainment destination with rides, attractions and entertainment.

Goal:

To communicate and promote to a wide audience the unique qualities and the national historic significance of Melanson Settlement NHSC, as well as to attract visitors with appropriate expectations to the Site.

Management direction:

- Parks Canada will communicate to prospective visitors the nature of the Site and help develop realistic expectations for their visit
- Parks Canada will tap into existing mechanisms for external relations and marketing of national historic sites in Mainland Nova Scotia to promote and market Melanson Settlement NHSC, employing tools such as media relations, publications, Parks Canada's Web site and industry relations

4.3 RESEARCH IN SUPPORT OF HERITAGE PROTECTION, HERITAGE PRESENTATION, VISITOR SERVICES AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

In 1984, archaeologists with the Nova Scotia Museum conducted a surficial archaeological survey of the Melanson Settlement. The survey was based on analyses of aerial photos and historic maps and included detailed foot surveys and recording of all archaeological surface features on the upland terrace. Between 1984 and 1986 Parks Canada archaeologists tested two archaeological features and excavated a third. The latter was one of the house sites, where excavations revealed that four different structures were built in succession before 1755. Since that time, no further archaeological work has been done at the Site. The fifteen other identified archaeological features have not been tested nor excavated.

Along with the archaeological investigation, extensive research of the historic record was also undertaken for the Melanson Settlement and its occupants. The findings of some of this research have been discussed in various reports and publications.[13] Providing the most concise summary of historical and archaeological information on the Site to date is the Parks Canada Research Bulletin 250, "The Melanson Settlement: An Acadian Farming Community (ca. 1664-1755)" (1986). This document was used as the basis for the recommendation of the Melanson Settlement for designation by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Incomplete drafts of two final reports on history and on archaeology exist; these contain much more information, including a comprehensive review of the historic record. Post-Acadian land uses have been investigated in recent years.[14]

In 2001, the known cultural resources at Melanson Settlement NHSC, including the location, size, shape and orientation of the surficial properties of the archaeological features, were precisely recorded by Real Property Services, Heritage Recording

[13] See Crépeau and Dunn 1986; Crépeau and Dunn 1995; Crépeau and Christianson 1995; Moody 2001.

[14] See Moody 2001.

Division.[15] More is being learned about the natural environment of the Site through floral and faunal inventories, and an ecological overview.[16] A spatial database of the cultural and natural features of the Site has been created using a geographic information system (GIS). The spatial database permits the precise location of known cultural resources to be compared against other factors, such as services and infrastructure and natural values. This can help managers ensure the integrity of cultural resources during initial development and ongoing operations at the Site. The spatial database can be expanded and added to as new cultural and natural resources are identified.

Situation Analysis:

Once completed, the reports on the history and archaeology of the Site will furnish a great deal more information about the Melanson Settlement than is currently available. The report on archaeology needs to be completed to determine how comprehensive was the original surficial archaeological survey, to in turn determine whether further survey work must be undertaken at the Site. Completion of these reports will be of great benefit to researchers and will provide the basis for a detailed research plan.

Much remains to be learned about the Site through further archaeological investigation. Canadians have indicated strong support for continued research at the Site, particularly through excavations of the as-yet unexamined archaeological features. No further archaeological research is envisioned at the Site in the near future, although Parks Canada will promote and facilitate further archaeological research as opportunities arise.

Goal:

To develop a more thorough understanding of Melanson Settlement NHSC's archaeology, history and cultural significance, which will inform the protection and presentation of the Site and assist in management and operation decisions. As well, to continue to develop knowledge of the natural values of the Site, which will assist in environmental assessments of proposed development and environmental stewardship of the Site.

Management direction:

- Parks Canada will complete a comprehensive archaeological report for Melanson Settlement NHSC based on existing research
- If revealed to be necessary following completion of the comprehensive archaeological report, Parks Canada will undertake a comprehensive surficial survey of the administered property of Melanson Settlement NHSC
- Parks Canada will complete a comprehensive historical report for the Melanson Settlement based on existing research
- Parks Canada will prepare a research plan to identify research priorities for the Site
- Parks Canada will continue to promote and facilitate appropriate research to improve understanding of the Site

4.4 VISITOR SERVICES AND ACCESS

A. Visitor Services

Melanson Settlement NHSC is located in a rural residential and farming area, facing on a two-lane, paved rural route that leads to Victoria Beach from Granville Ferry and Annapolis Royal. The Site is located between two popular and well-visited national historic sites, Port-Royal and Fort Anne NHSCs. Port-Royal NHSC located about 1km away has well-developed washroom facilities, but otherwise there are no nearby visitor amenities.

At this time, Melanson Settlement NHSC is unmarked and unsigned. Currently the Site receives no visitors in its capacity as a national historic site; Melanson Settlement NHSC is not yet developed and offers no visitor services.

[15] See Real Property Services for Parks Canada, Heritage Conservation Program (2001)

[16] See Ecological Inventory of the Melanson Property (2003) East Coast Aquatics.

Situation Analysis:

Because of its location between two well-visited national historic sites, it is likely that visitation at Melanson Settlement NHSC will be influenced by the proximity and visitation at these Sites. During the 2002 visitor season, Fort Anne received 50 255 visitors and Port-Royal received 44 567 visitors. Thematically-related Grand-Pré received 59 194 visitors. Based on these visitation levels, an estimated twelve to fifteen thousand visitors (or approximately one-third of visitors to Port-Royal) may be expected at Melanson Settlement NHSC. Despite the presence of other sites and attractions in the area, none are close enough to satisfy the service demands of Melanson Settlement NHSC. If visitors are going to be encouraged to stay for any length of time or to explore the Site, a modest level of visitor services should be offered. Visitor services will need to be designed with the estimated visitation level in mind.

Any development must consider the environmental and cultural sensitivities of the Site, known and as yet undiscovered. Visitor services will be located where there is the least likelihood of environmental or cultural resource impact. From evidence of research to date, it appears unlikely that cultural resources will be found in the portion of the Site between the railbed and the paved road; therefore, this area appears to be the most appropriate location for visitor services. Any development will be accompanied by the appropriate level of environmental and cultural impact assessment.

Laneway into the site above the uplands and archaeological features.
S. Quon 2001.

In the event that the Site is developed, visitor services at Melanson Settlement NHSC will be grouped together at a service node, while interpretive services will be grouped at an interpretive node; these nodes will be linked by a modest trail. The service node will include a parking area, non-personal orientation and information services, and modest washroom facilities. The service node will serve as the start of the on-site visitor experience, providing an introduction and orientation to the Site and information about the Site's place in the broader system of national protected heritage areas. Parks Canada will assess the service offer over time, and modify it as required as visitor needs evolve.

A modest trail is proposed linking the service node to the interpretive node; in future, additional trails may be developed. Trails can address both the public interest in exploring the Site, its archaeological features and viewpoints, while addressing the need to protect cultural resources from foot traffic. Such trails would permit visitors to explore key portions of Melanson Settlement NHSC while being directed away from potentially sensitive areas. Vegetation management could also direct visitor flow. Trails, if developed beyond the initial trail linking the service and interpretive nodes, would be limited to the administered property and occur in phases. An extension of the proposed trail to the Annapolis River and dykes is not envisioned at this time.

Visitor services should be in keeping with the public desire to have access to the Site without over-development, and in keeping with the Site as a day-use site. Toilet facilities will be built to serve modest demand; more washrooms are available for use by large groups at nearby Port-Royal NHSC. Parking must be accommodated on-site for both cars and possible bus traffic.

Goal:

To provide services, appropriate in scale and scope, that will help Canadians learn about and enjoy the Site. The provision of services will be compatible with the cultural values and sense of place of the Site and will consider other facilities offered at nearby

national historic sites and in the closest communities.

Management direction:

- Parks Canada will provide visitor services that will be compatible with the Site's cultural values and sense of place and that will be accessible to visitors with disabilities. Aside from heritage presentation services, discussed previously, visitor services will include:
  - a gravel parking lot accommodating ten to fifteen cars and one bus
  - accessible toilet facilities, one per gender
  - signage
  - interpretive/orientation material, detailing what the site offers, and information about the national system of protected heritage areas
- Parks Canada will consider the development of a directed trail system that would provide opportunities for visitors to experience some of the archaeological features
- Parks Canada will undertake any site development with the utmost caution, and will undertake environmental and cultural resource assessments during the early planning and design phases of any work, and take mitigation measures as required
- Parks Canada will investigate appropriate methods of monitoring visitor use levels, patterns, and satisfaction

B. Access and Appropriate Uses of the Site

Local residents have used Melanson Settlement NHSC as a way to access the dykes and mudflats for clamming; it is one of the few remaining unbarred access points to the mudflats on the river below the Queen Anne Marsh. A laneway currently serves as the primary entry point to Melanson Settlement NHSC. This laneway extends south from the paved roadway to the railbed, and as a less well-defined track over Parks Canada property, then over private property that extends to the dyke. A secondary entry point at the northeast extremity of the Site, a right-of-way that predates the consolidation of the administered property from three private parcels, has been kept mown, although not by the Province or by Parks Canada. Legally, this right-of-way ceased with the transfer of land from the provincial to the federal government.

Currently both entry points provide pedestrian and vehicular access to the Site. They appear to be well-defined and well-used by local residents for rabbit hunting, by recreational all-terrain vehicle users and by clam harvesters. However, Queen Anne Marsh Body members and other landowners have voiced strong concerns about the damage to the dykes and dykelands caused by motorized vehicles and have voiced an interest in controlled access points.

Situation analysis:

Parks Canada and the interested parties are working together to find alternatives to Melanson Settlement NHSC as an access point to the dykes and as a venue for inappropriate recreational activities. Uncontrolled vehicle use has the risk of damaging archaeological features and allowing access to all areas of the Site including those unapproachable on foot. Any strategy to use vegetation management and trails to direct visitor flow could be undermined by vehicle (especially all-terrain vehicle) presence on the Site. Hunting at the Site is contrary to the spirit of national historic sites as places protecting and presenting cultural heritage, as places of safe learning and recreation.

Parks Canada is working to ensure that individuals understand the new restrictions on previously unmanaged activities. Parks Canada initiated discussions regarding access to the clam beds by licensed clam harvesters, and continues to work with other users of the Site to arrive at acceptable ways to limit inappropriate activities. As well, Parks Canada will manage access and use of the Site, including through controlled access to and circulation on the Site.

Goal:

To ensure that the activities that occur at Melanson Settlement NHSC are consistent with its role as a national historic site.

Management direction:

- Parks Canada will continue to work with others to promote appropriate and discourage inappropriate activities at the Site. Inappropriate activities include hunting and use of recreational or sport vehicles
- Parks Canada will ensure that the administrative boundaries of the Site are clearly marked, without impairing the visual continuity of the cultural landscape, to allow Site users to know when they are in the national historic site. Visitors will be encouraged to enter the Site only from the paved roadway at the designated visitor entry point
- Parks Canada will restrict motorized vehicular access on the Site to designated areas; vehicles will be permitted on the rest of the Site only for maintenance or emergency purposes or with the permission of the Site Manager
- Parks Canada will continue to communicate with neighbours and local landowners and consider their perspectives in future changes regarding access to the Site

C. Special Events

Melanson Settlement NHSC encompasses a sizeable land base that may prove of interest as a venue for special events or special uses of the Site by different parties, particularly for events that relate to Acadian culture or themes. No facilities are in place and none are planned that would serve large gatherings of people for day use or overnight stays.

At other national historic sites in the Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit, special event requests are evaluated on an individual basis. Evaluation criteria have been developed that are tailored to individual sites. Port-Royal NHSC and Fort Anne NHSC receive only two or three such requests for special use of the sites per year, although periodically more requests may be received.

Situation Analysis:

Melanson Settlement NHSC will likely prove attractive to groups and organizations as a venue for special events or special uses, particularly those with Acadian themes. Special events that are appropriate to the Site should be accommodated as much as possible, to allow stakeholders or other interested parties to experience the Site and to provide a venue for events in keeping with the national historic significance of the Site.

Any request that Parks Canada receives for use of the Site for a special event will be reviewed individually to ensure that cultural and natural resources of the Site will not be compromised.

Goal:

To accommodate special events at Melanson Settlement NHSC that are appropriate to the Site, and that respect the cultural resource values and sense of place and do not diminish the commemorative integrity of the Site.

The site may attract Acadian special events. *J. Hillis, 1994*

Management direction:

- Parks Canada will develop guidelines to assess proposed special events on the Site
- Parks Canada will review proposals for special events from external groups individually, ensure that the proposals address concerns identified through an environmental assessment, and describe any conditions that may be required for special events to be held, including but not limited to the location of participants, temporary structures, temporary facilities, timing of the event, signage or promotion of the event

4.5 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Parks Canada is committed to environmental stewardship of the natural values found in national historic sites under the Agency's administration. While national historic sites are commemorated for their historic significance, some sites encompass many hectares of land. The land base forms the setting for communicating the key messages of the site, and may require concerted management to keep it in harmony with the cultural resources and reasons for which the site was commemorated. Knowledge of the natural resources of the administered property of Melanson Settlement NHSC has been collected and summarized in the following reports: *Ecological Inventory of the Melanson Property, Final Report* (2003), *Vegetation Inventory of the Melanson Settlement Property* (2002), *Avifaunal Inventory of Melanson Settlement National Historic Site* (2003).

The twenty-seven hectares of Melanson Settlement NHSC consist primarily of uplands, formerly agricultural lands, overlooking dykelands and the Annapolis River. Melanson Settlement NHSC is situated in Nova Scotia's geographic theme region[17] "Triassic Lowlands" that includes all of the Annapolis Valley, and is further divided into terrestrial and tidal bay components. The property is located at the foot of North Mountain. North Mountain is a basalt formation that remained following the erosion of softer Triassic sandstones, the erosion of which has led to the open-ended Annapolis Valley. Material from the parent rock and glacial and post-glacial deposits provide a mixture of fertile soil types. Because of the sheltering North and South Mountains, the Annapolis Valley climate is the most suitable for agriculture in Nova Scotia, providing a long growing season.

The Site elevations range from an average of 17m above sea level at the upland area near the paved road, and 14m above sea level in the upland terrace where most of the identified cultural resources are located, to lows on the river bank of sea level at the high tide mark. The portion of the modern dyke included in the administered property is built to a height of about 6m above sea level.

Much of the Site is successional agricultural land or oldfield, covered in herbaceous species that are succeeding to alders and hawthorn. In spring 1985, an accidental grass fire cleared large areas of the property. The Site contains some wooded areas, and trees grow along and through the stone boundary lines. The alignment of the railbed is visible on aerial photos; however, on the ground it is largely overgrown. The last regular use of the Site for agricultural purposes (haying and/or grazing) occurred in the 1950s. In recent years the Site has been periodically mown.

The Site is located in Louck's Red Spruce, Hemlock, Pine Zone, once dominated by Red Spruce and Eastern Hemlock. Natural vegetation on the Site is typical of the Triassic Lowland theme region where areas cleared for agriculture are often oldfields, regenerating in White Spruce. Dykeland and salt-marsh plant communities are found along the coast.

The Site includes a variety of habitats supporting a rich diversity of plant communities and species. Oldfield habitat covers the majority of the property. Oldfield habitat can be generally described as more

[17] The Province of Nova Scotia has been divided into nine geographic "theme regions"; see Natural History of Nova Scotia, Vol. 2, http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/nature/umbrell2.htm

or less open fields consisting of primarily herbaceous vegetation with scattered hawthorns and apple trees and in which dense shrub thickets are encroaching. In some areas very young White Spruce are coming in. Other habitat types covering medium to small areas of the Site include: shrub thickets, alder and Canada holly and mixes of these; cattail/alder marsh; the abandoned railbed; mature, dry, open mixed woodland; open graminoid meadow; small open wet depression; small open poplar stand; lower fields; and small patches of open marsh, one including a pond.

Three rare plant species have been identified at Melanson Settlement NHSC: *Salix petiolaris* (open marsh) (Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre (ACCDC) sub-national ranking of S3); *Spiranthes casei* (dry, south-facing slope, opening in dense shrub thickets)(ACCDC sub-national rank: S1 or S1S2 depending on variety); and *Carex atlantic* ssp. *Capillacea* (alder thicket) (ACCDC sub-national rank: S2; Canadian Priority: 2). All of these are near the eastern edge of the property, well away from the current circulation pattern at the Site and also removed from proposed areas of visitor services.

The mix of open land and forested areas is likely to support southerly and opportunistic animal species associated with agricultural areas (e.g., red fox, skunk), while the small portion of the Site crossing the marsh to the river could provide habitat suitable to other species. Other animals that might be expected on the Site include woodchuck, muskrat, mink, pheasant, snipe, woodcock, hawks, crows, Bald Eagle, Gray Partridge and Short-eared Owl. No rare or endangered fauna are known to inhabit the Site.

Nearby Queen Anne Marsh is typical of dyked marshland with a history of cultivation for over 300 years. The dykeland is protected by a modern-era dyke, part of the reconstructed dyke system dating to a 1950s federal program of dyke rehabilitation. Only a small portion of the modern dyke is located on the administered property of Melanson Settlement NHSC.

A spatial database of the cultural and natural resources of the Site has been created using a geographic information system (GIS). This spatial database effectively contains and manages all geospatial information collected about the Site, including qualitative and quantitative data and images. More information about the Site can be added to this spatial database as it becomes available. The spatial database has been developed to encompass an area larger than the administrative boundaries of the national historic site. Being able to consider the Site as part of the broader geographic context may be of assistance in future landscape planning efforts by others.

Situation Analysis:

Acadians were likely drawn to establish a settlement at this location in part because of its natural amenities: upland terraces with access to the river and the extensive salt marshes, shelter by North Mountain and proximity to present-day Queen Anne Marsh for cultivation. The Site retains a natural beauty, views and sense of place that would make this evident to visitors. While there is no intention to seek to recreate the landscape as it would have been in the 17th century, the property should be maintained in keeping with its current geographic context.

To maintain Melanson Settlement NHSC in keeping with the broader geographic context, Parks Canada should actively manage vegetation on the Site. As discussed previously, unmanaged vegetation growth may impair the *in situ* cultural resources, especially problematic where archaeological features have not yet been examined. Unmanaged vegetation may obscure views and render it difficult to reach or detect archaeological features for research or for heritage presentation. However, some of the site flora has been discovered to be locally rare. Site managers have a responsibility to protect the natural values of the Site, particularly those that may be rare or endangered, and manage the property in a way that ensures the commemorative integrity of the Site without adversely affecting its natural values. A vegetation management plan should be developed for the Site. The vegetation management plan should: define a vision for the landscape that in turn defines broad

management goals; provide direction on how to balance protecting cultural resources without jeopardizing rare species; direct the monitoring of known species at risk and offer provisions for continued research and understanding of the natural values of the Site.

As part of its contribution to maintaining the values and qualities of the broader geographic context (appearance, sense of place, views from the Site), Parks Canada should cooperate with other landowners in active agricultural management of the dykelands.

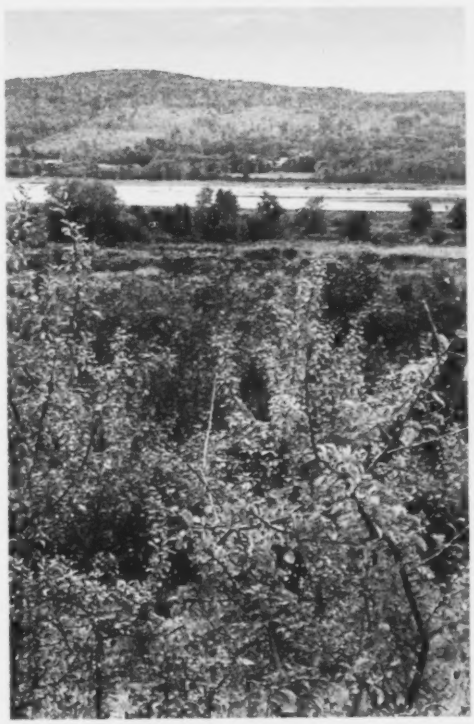
Parks Canada is committed to environmentally sound management practices in the national historic sites the Agency administers or manages.[18] At Melanson Settlement NHSC, managers have an opportunity to make use of environmental "best practices" in the management of vegetation and provision of services.

Goal:

To ensure the health of the natural environment of Melanson Settlement NHSC with its open appearance and sense of place.

Management direction:

- Parks Canada will use environmentally sound practices in operation and management of the Site, as per Parks Canada's directives
- Parks Canada will develop a vegetation management plan to guide Site managers in the appropriate timing and means to maintain the desired landscape character in an ecologically sustainable and environmentally sound fashion
- Parks Canada will continue to manage and track current and new information about the natural and cultural resources of the Site with the assistance of a spatial database
- Parks Canada will cooperate with other groups and organizations (such as the Province of Nova Scotia and the Queen Anne Marsh Body) to promote the protection and management of the geographic context surrounding and including the Site



Natural beauty and sense of place. *S. Quon 2001.*

[18] Guidance is provided in documents such as *Parks Canada - Environmental Management Principles (1997)* http://parkscanada.pch.gc.ca/natress/menu_1e.htm

5.0 Impact Evaluation and Environmental Assessment

This management plan for Melanson Settlement NHSC has been evaluated considering the impact of the proposed strategies and actions on the natural environment and the commemorative integrity of the Site. (For the full text, see *Environmental Assessment of the Melanson Settlement National Historic Site of Canada Draft Management Plan*, November 2002). The environmental assessment was conducted as required by the *Strategic Environmental Assessment: The 1999 Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals: Guidelines for Implementing* (1999), and with additional guidance from *Procedures of the Department of Canadian Heritage for Complying with the* CEAA (1996), *Parks Canada Management Directive 2.4.2–Impact Assessment* (1998) and *Parks Canada Guide to the Environmental Assessment of Management Plans* (2000).

The environmental assessment was conducted during the final draft stage of the management plan preparation, to accommodate any necessary changes to the management plan as a result of the assessment and to permit incorporation of such changes into the final text of the management plan. The environmental assessment was conducted on the area that is the administered property of Melanson Settlement NHSC, and it considered the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of proposed development and proposed operational practices on the environment of this area.

In general, negative and positive impacts of the management direction have been anticipated by the management planning team and appropriate cautions and direction to minimize negative effects are incorporated in the plan. The environmental assessment stresses that Site managers must ensure a good base of knowledge of the natural values at Melanson Settlement NHSC, considering the native ecosystem as well as the changes wrought by years of human use and occupation in order to inform the forthcoming development of the landscape and of the vegetation management plan for the Site. The management plan provides for the collection and assessment of such information.

Several of the management plan proposals may trigger the need for a specific environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (which applies to projects where a federal authority is the project proponent, proposes, funds, regulates or grants land). The triggering proposals include: vegetation management for viewscape maintenance; trail development; boundary clearing and marking if it involves cutting of vegetation; development of new visitor services and heritage presentation facilities; and special events.

On the whole, the proposed development and management of the Site do not present detrimental impacts to the Site in and of themselves. The environmental assessment of the management plan states that:

Implementation of management plan goals and direction will greatly increase the level of cultural resource protection and commemorative integrity at the Melanson Settlement National Historic Site. Proposed management goals and direction provided in the draft plan are consistent with the Commemorative Integrity Statement for the site. ...

Facility development proposals are modest and designed to demonstrate stewardship and management control for a site that has no visible Parks Canada presence. Proposals are envisioned to provide appropriate stewardship of the site and to a basic level of service for the public. ...

The potential for significant negative cumulative environmental effects is low. Implementation of proposed management direction will not result in alienation of lands currently unaffected by human use. [The level] of visitation is expected to increase in response to marketing and outreach initiatives but in a manner that conforms to the principles of commemorative integrity. Site infrastructure is needed to safely and comfortably accommodate visitors. Management goals and direction proposed in the management plan are expected to result in a positive cumulative benefit for commemorative integrity, a neutral to slightly negative cumulative benefit for ecological integrity, and a positive net cumulative socio-economic benefit. All actions proposed in the management plan are consistent with Parks Canada policy and federal legislation. Adequate public participation occurred during the management planning review process.

6.0 Implementation Strategy

The actions proposed in this management plan for Melanson Settlement NHSC are implemented through the Field Unit's business plan. While the management plan is envisioned as a strategic guide with a life span of ten to fifteen years (reviewed every five years), the annual business plan offers a picture of five years at a time. The business plan identifies those actions of the management plan that will be realized within the next five years, and their timing and cost. Any changes to the five-year forecast are captured by the review and update of the business plan.

Implementation of this management plan is the responsibility of the Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit Superintendent. The Field Unit Superintendent's three primary accountabilities at Melanson Settlement NHSC are:

1. Ensuring commemorative integrity
2. Improving service to clients
3. Making wise and efficient use of public funds.

Implementation of the actions proposed for Melanson Settlement NHSC in this management plan, once approved, depends on the availability of financial resources.

New management initiatives are distinguished from ongoing management direction. New initiatives are prioritized, identifying those initiatives that will be achieved within the first three years following management plan approval (specifying those that are contingent upon financial resources being available, particularly for site development), and those initiatives that will be achieved in future years of the life of the management plan. These priorities may be reconsidered in response to new circumstances or information, or changing national priorities and decisions. No priority has been assigned to initiatives beyond this broad phasing. Further prioritizing will occur during the course of Field Unit business planning.

Progress on the management plan implementation will be communicated through annual reporting on business plan performance and through the *State of Protected Heritage Areas* report, prepared every two years. The management plan will also be subject to periodic review, and can be amended to reflect changing circumstances. The public will be consulted about major changes.

Management direction that will be ongoing:

Heritage Protection

- Parks Canada will manage vegetation to protect key views from the Site of the surrounding landscape and to ensure that the Site is consistent with the geographic context
- Parks Canada will manage vegetation to protect *in situ* cultural resources
- Parks Canada will cooperate with other groups and organizations (such as the Province of Nova Scotia and the Queen Anne Marsh Body) to promote the protection and management of the geographic context of the Site
- Parks Canada will work toward protection of *in situ* cultural resources from looting activities and other human disturbance by using various protection strategies, such as strategic site design, public education, the application of appropriate legislation, monitoring and neighbourhood watch
- Parks Canada will ensure that site planning and development is preceded by archaeological assessment to minimize the effect of site development on known

and as yet unknown cultural resources of the Site
- Parks Canada will continue to maintain the artifact collection and associated records in a stable and secure condition consistent with Parks Canada's archaeological collections policy
- Parks Canada will seek to ensure that the collection of historic objects is available for study and interpretive purposes, as is appropriate

Heritage Presentation
- Parks Canada will use heritage presenation methods that are not detrimental to the cultural resources. Vegetation management may be used to enhance the visitor experience, and maintain the open landscape character and viewplanes that contribute to the sense of place

Working with Others
- Parks Canada will cooperate with neighbours and the Province of Nova Scotia to identify, protect and monitor cultural resources related to the Melanson Settlement that may be discovered beyond the administered property
- Parks Canada will work with others to promote appropriate and discourage inappropriate activities at the Site
- Parks Canada will continue to develop and improve relationships with various organizations and groups, such as the Acadian community, the Mi'kmaw community, local heritage organizations, local landowners and the Province of Nova Scotia
- Parks Canada will continue to communicate with neighbours and local landowners and consider their perspectives in future changes regarding access to the Site

Research
- Parks Canada will continue to promote and facilitate appropriate research to improve understanding of the Site
- Parks Canada will continue to manage and track current and new information about the natural and cultural resources of the Site with the assistance of a spatial database

Appropriate Activities and Access
- Parks Canada will restrict motorized vehicular access on the Site to designated areas

Special Events
- Parks Canada will review proposals for special events from external groups individually, and describe any conditions that may be required for special events to be held

Environmental Stewardship
- Parks Canada will use environmentally sound practices in operation and management of the Site, as per Parks Canada's directives

Management direction that will be ongoing, contingent on site development:
- Parks Canada will undertake any site development with the utmost caution, andwill undertake environmental and cultural resource assessments during the early planning and design phases of any work, and provide mitigation measures as required
- Parks Canada will communicate to prospective visitors the nature of the Site and help develop realistic expectations for their visit
- Parks Canada will tap into existing mechanisms for external relations and marketing of national historic sites in Mainland Nova Scotia to promote and market Melanson Settlement NHSC, employing tools such as media relations, publications, Parks Canada's Web site and industry relations

New management initiatives:

Priorities within the first three years:
- Parks Canada will pursue the transfer of ownership of the artifact collection and associated records of Melanson Settlement NHSC from the Province of Nova Scotia to Parks Canada
- Parks Canada will ensure that the administrative boundaries of the Site are clearly marked
- Parks Canada will develop a detailed

interpretive plan for an on-site heritage presentation program, in consultation with local heritage organizations and the Acadian and Mi'kmaw communities
- Parks Canada will complete a comprehensive historical report for the Melanson Settlement based on existing research
- Parks Canada will prepare a research plan to identify research priorities for the Site
- Parks Canada will develop guidelines to assess proposed special events on the Site
- Parks Canada will develop a vegetation management plan to guide Site managers in the appropriate timing and means to maintain the desired landscape character in an environmentally sound fashion
- Parks Canada will unveil an Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque for the Site

Priorities within the first three years, contingent upon availability of financial resources to develop the Site:
- Parks Canada will provide opportunities for heritage presentation at the Site that permit access to known cultural resources while ensuring their protection and that incorporate views of and from the Site; non-personal media at an interpretive node will anchor on-site heritage presentation efforts
- Parks Canada will measure the effectiveness of the heritage presentation program in communicating nationally significant messages
- Parks Canada will provide visitor services that will be compatible with the Site's cultural values and sense of place and that will be accessible to visitors with disabilities

Future year priorities:
- Parks Canada will complete a comprehensive archaeological report for Melanson Settlement NHSC based on existing research

Future year priorities contingent upon availability of financial resources:
- If revealed to be necessary following completion of the comprehensive archaeological report, Parks Canada will undertake a comprehensive surficial survey of the administered property of Melanson Settlement NHSC
- Parks Canada will seek to work with organizations and groups on heritage protection, heritage presentation and outreach and promotion of Melanson Settlement NHSC and to ensure the survival of the unique qualities of the geographic context

Future year priorities contingent upon availability of financial resources to develop the Site:
- Parks Canada will consider the development of a directed trail system that would provide opportunities for visitors to experience some of the archaeological features
- Parks Canada will investigate appropriate methods of monitoring of visitor use patterns
- Parks Canada will develop opportunities for the non-visiting public to learn about Melanson Settlement NHSC through the use of new and traditional media
- Parks Canada will seek to work in partnership with others, as appropriate, to communicate nationally significant messages about the Site to specific audiences, particularly making use of opportunities afforded by other sites and attractions in the vicinity

List of Management Planning Team Members

The following participated in the development of this management plan as part of the core management planning team:

- Theresa Bunbury, Operations Superintendent, Southwest Nova National Historic Sites, Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit, Parks Canada
- Charles Burke, Archaeologist, Atlantic Service Centre, Parks Canada
- David Christianson, Senior Archaeologist, Nova Scotia Museum
- Brenda Dunn, consultant, Historian
- Rob Ferguson, Archaeologist, Atlantic Service Centre, Parks Canada
- Ron McDonald, Cultural Resource Management Advisor, Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit, Parks Canada
- Bob Ogilvie, Special Places Protection Officer, Nova Scotia Museum
- Soonya Quon, Management Planner, Atlantic Service Centre, Parks Canada
- Terry Thibodeau, Development Officer, Conseil de développement économique de la Nouvelle-Écosse

Additional support from:

- Daniel LeBlanc, consultant, New Brunswick Acadian Community Liaison
- Tanya Taylor White, Marketing Manager, Mainland Nova Scotia Field Unit, Parks Canada
- Harry Beach, Environmental Assessment Specialist, Atlantic Service Centre, Parks Canada
- Chris McCarthy, Ecologist, Kejimkujik National Park, Parks Canada
- Guy LeBlanc, Graphic Designer, Atlantic Service Centre, Parks Canada

APPENDIX A

Inventory and Evaluation of Cultural Resources

Description	**Level**	Explanation
***In Situ* Resources**		
Archaeological Feature 1	Level I	Cellar remains, approximately 1 m deep and 6.5 m square; corresponds on historic map with "m[e] La Ramée." House of founders of settlement, Charles Melanson *dit* La Ramée and Marie Dugas.
Archaeological Feature 2	Level I	Small circular depression, possibly a well.
Archaeological Feature 3	Level I	Small circular mound.
Archaeological Feature 4	Level I	Cellar remains, approximately 1 m deep and 6.5 m square.
Archaeological Feature 5	Level I	Unknown feature from the Melanson Settlement.
Archaeological Feature 6	Level I	Unknown feature from the Melanson Settlement.
Archaeological Feature 7	Level I	Cellar remains.
Archaeological Feature 8	Level I	Ruins excavated 1984-86 to reveal four Acadian buildings built in succession on the same site. Corresponds to "Melancon" on historic plans; believed to be home of Charles Melanson Jr. and Anne Bourg.
Archaeological Feature 9	Level I	Building remains, 13 m by 7 m, with cellar in western half, 4 m by 5 m, and footing and central chimney; corresponds on 1708 map to "J. Belliveau." Home of Jean Belliveau and Madeleine Melanson. Archaeological testing during excavations.
Archaeological Feature 10	Level I	Small circular mound.
Archaeological Feature 11	Level I	Cellar remains; corresponds on 1708 map to "alexdre Robicheau." Home of Alexandre Robichaud and Anne Melanson (widow of Jacques Saint Étienne de La Tour); tested during archaeological excavations of Feature 8.
Archaeological Feature 12	Level I	Small circular depression.
Archaeological Feature 13	Level I	Circular building remains.

Archaeological Feature 14	Level I	Circular building remains.
Archaeological Feature 15	Level I	Small circular mound.
Archaeological Feature 16	Level I	Cellar remains; corresponds on 1708 map to "La Liberté." Home of Jean Roy dit La Liberté and Marie Aubois.
Archaeological Feature 17	Level I	Unknown feature from the Melanson Settlement.
Archaeological Feature 18	Level I	Circular building remains; the substantial foundations and the location of the structure suggest that this building was a windmill.
Dykes and Field Systems	Level II	Located on the marshes adjacent to the settlement; represent Acadian dykeland agriculture in general and, specifically, the agricultural activities of the Melanson Settlement.
Trace of H & SW Rail Line	Level II	Runs across three properties on the upland; contributes to our understanding of the evolution of the site. Local and regional values also.
Boundary Lines	Level II	Run north-south through the settlement site; long, linear lots reflect New England Planter grants and lots of later landowners.
Archaeological Collection		
The collection consists of about 98 000 items from the archaeological excavations.	Level I	99.99% of the collection relates to the Acadian period of the Melanson Settlement.
	Level II	0.01% of the excavated material relates to a period outside of the Acadian period of the Melanson Settlement.

APPENDIX B

References to the Melanson Settlement in Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Minutes

Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada Recommendations

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada discussed the Melanson Settlement at four meetings between 1985 and the end of 1987. Informed at its November 1985 meeting that Parks Canada had carried out archaeological excavations during the previous two summers, the Board requested a report on the results of the excavations for its spring meeting. At the June 1986 meeting, the Board concluded that it was premature to consider designation of the site and suggested that further research might reveal the Melanson Settlement site to be of exceptional national significance. The Board then recommended that:

> *the Program carry out additional archaeological excavations at the Melanson site as soon as staff resources become available and that the Province of Nova Scotia be requested to support Parks' efforts in this regard by affording the site every possible protection.*

At its next meeting, in November 1986, the Board was asked to give further consideration to the site, which was now under threat because the owners of one of the properties on which the archaeological remains were located were planning to build a house. Archaeologists had completed work on the one Acadian house site under excavation. The Board was informed that the excavations indicated "at least four structures on that foundation area between 1670 and 1755." No mention was made of the dykes relating to the Melanson Settlement at this or subsequent meetings. The Board declared the Melanson Settlement site to be of national historic significance and made recommendations relating to the site's level of commemoration, protection and future archaeological excavation.

> *the Melanson Settlement is of national historic significance; however, as development of the site may well not be a necessary or, indeed, a desirable outcome of its recognition, program involvement should be limited to commemoration by means of a plaque, at least for the time being.*

Because it believed that additional archaeological excavation of the remains on the three properties, especially of the structures related to the Village's agricultural activities, would add to the "understanding of this facet of Acadian life," the Board further recommended that:

> *Parks approach the owners of the lands on which the Melanson Settlement's in situ resources lie, with a view to renting those lands until such time as archaeological investigations have been completed to the satisfaction of the Program.*

In June 1987, the Board rescinded the second part of the November 1986 recommendation. This decision was based on three factors: the site was no longer threatened, the Parks Canada program lacked the staff and fiscal resources to carry out immediate excavations and there was a possibility of acquiring the three properties in a land exchange with the province of Nova Scotia. The Board replaced the rescinded recommendation with the new recommendation that:

> *While the Program should explore other means of protecting the in situ resources of the Melanson Settlement until such time as archaeological investigations can be completed, to its satisfaction, it should, as a priority, approach the Province of Nova Scotia and discuss with it the possibility of achieving this end through joint action.*

In November 1994, the Board approved a plaque text. The Board made further reference to the Melanson Settlement in December 1998 during deliberations leading to a decision not to designate a 19th-century Ontario homestead because it had lost its sense of place. Melanson Settlement NHSC was cited as one of three examples of designated archaeological sites that retained an evident sense of place.

In December 2002, the Board approved the following revised plaque text:

L'ÉTABLISSEMENT MELANSON
MELANSON SETTLEMENT

Ce site unique renferme des vestiges archéologiques révélant l'architecture et le mode de vie d'un village acadien antérieur à la Déportation de 1755. Après leur mariage en 1664, Charles Melanson et Marie Dugas fondèrent cet établissement sur le bord de la rivière Dauphin, aujourd'hui la rivière Annapolis. Le village comportait, sur le plateau, des maisons et des granges avoisinant les vergers et les jardins. En contrebas, on pratiquait l'agriculture dans les marais salants asséchés grâce au système d'aboiteaux. Quatre générations d'habitants s'y succédèrent jusqu'à l'abandon du village en 1755.

This unique site contains archaeological remains that show the architecture and the way of life of an Acadian village before the Expulsion of 1755. After their marriage in 1664, Charles Melanson and Marie Dugas founded the village on the banks of the Dauphin River, now Annapolis River. On the plateau, the village consisted of houses and barns adjoining orchards and gardens. Below, farming occurred in the salt marshes reclaimed by the tide-gate system. Four generations of inhabitants lived in the village before it was abandoned in 1755.

APPENDIX C

Glossary of Terms

administered property: the property administered by a custodian or authority which includes part or all of the Designated Place of a national historic site.

commemorative integrity: describes the health or wholeness of a national historic site. A national historic site possesses commemorative integrity when: the resources directly related to the reasons for the site's designation as a national historic site are not impaired or under threat; the reasons for the site's national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public; and the site's heritage values (including those not related to national significance) are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

cultural landscape: a cultural landscape is any geographical area that has been modified, influenced, or given special cultural meaning by people.

cultural resource: a human work, or a place that gives evidence of human activity or has spiritual or cultural meaning, and that has been determined to be of historic value.

The term applies to cultural landscapes and landscape features, archaeological sites, structures, engineering works, artifacts and associated records. Cultural resources may occur in complexes or assemblages and may have both natural and fabricated features. Cultural resources are distinguished from other resources by virtue of their assigned historic value that derives from an association with an aspect or aspects of human history. They have physical and associative values that give them historic value.

designated place:	the place designated by the responsible Minister on the recommendation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Designated place has the same meaning as historic place, which has been defined in the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* as "a site, building or other place of national historic interest or significance, and includes buildings or structures that are of national interest by reasons of age or architectural design."
in situ *resource:*	a resource in its original location, often used to describe undisturbed archaeological features.
Level I resource:	a cultural resource with direct association to the reasons for commemorating the national historic significance of a site.
Level II resource:	a cultural resource with heritage values not directly related to the national historic significance of a site.

APPENDIX D

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